

Lending rate rise of 1% takes the City by surprise

An unexpected rise of 1 per cent. yesterday in minimum lending rate, taking it to 12 per cent, was seen primarily as a move to defend the pound. But coming at a time when the economy is in recession, the increase is bound to cause sharp political controversy.

Move likely to spark political row

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff

With the economy plunging deeper into recession, the Government yesterday acted to force a surprisingly sharp increase in interest rates. The move is almost certain to arouse strong political reaction, coming only after the Labour Party conference, and will give rise to fears of still more company insolvencies and even higher unemployment.

The increase from 11 to 12 per cent in the minimum lending rate (MLR), which has replaced Bank rate as the key rate in the national interest rates structure, displayed all the hallmarks yesterday afternoon of a hastily-taken decision. It followed a similar 1 percentage point rise in July.

At its new level the MLR is only a little below the 13 per cent established during the peak of the last economic boom in late 1973. That was the highest rate seen this century. Although Whitehall officials were keen to stress the internal factors which had influenced the decision, most of the evidence suggested that the higher rate was a response to concern for sterling and the need to maintain a high level of foreign investment in London.

Although there had been some City conjecture earlier in the week that the MLR could rise, in the event, the increase came as a surprise. Notionally, MLR is established by free market forces, and calculated on the price levels of the weekly tender for Treasury bills.

In actuality the Bank of England controls these tender prices, and its desire for a rise in MLR appears to have become apparent only a short time before the tenders were due to be submitted.

The rise is being widely associated with reports circulating in the City earlier this week that several oil exporting countries were becoming increasingly anxious about holding sterling funds.

It is known that large oil royalty payments are due to be made this month and the Government is obviously concerned that at least some of this money should be placed in London.

Whether the Government had any good reason for believing that any of the oil exporting countries would invest less in

London in future than they did in the past can only be guessed at. Certainly, United States interest rates have been rising steadily, although the pound has been weak in recent days, its performance has not been sufficiently bad to suggest the need for a full one percentage point increase in London rates.

Officials stressed yesterday that the continuing need to reduce inflation was as equally strong a motive for raising MLR as defending the pound. The huge Government Budget deficit is causing a steady increase in the growth of the money supply, and a build-up of bank deposits.

The rise in interest rates could have the effect of attracting these funds into the government bond market, thus helping to finance the official borrowing requirement and contain the money stock.

However, they will also further increase the cost of borrowing to companies and individuals. It seems almost certain that overdraft rates will rise sharply in the next few days.

It is also "leaked" on the banks heavily in an attempt to get them to channel surplus funds into government bonds. It is rather than call for the banks to lodge special deposits because it was felt that such a "call" would have a serious psychological effect on the business community. Yet a rise in MLR to 12 per cent could lead to a fall in just such an impact.

Some of the banks' liquidity has been mopped up by heavy sales of Treasury bills recently and this has tended to put some mild upward pressure on short-term City interest rates in recent weeks.

The Government to point out that the market trend in rates was already upwards before yesterday's move.

Lending rate table, page 17

Hostages released unharmed after five days

Armed detectives find man wounded as Spaghetti House siege ends

By Clive Barrell

Two West Indians are to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court today charged with attempted robbery and kidnapping after the release, early yesterday, of six hostages who had been held for 122 hours in the cellar storeroom of the Spaghetti House restaurant, Knightsbridge, London.

The men are Wesley Dick, aged 24, and Anthony Gordon Munro, aged 22, who were charged last night at Cannon Row Police Station. Detectives yesterday were interviewing a third man, Frank Davies, aged 28, a Nigerian student, in St George's hospital, after police found him lying injured with a revolver beside him in the cellar.

The Prime Minister sent a telegram yesterday to Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, praising his handling of the siege. Mr Wilson said that Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, had kept him fully informed of the progress in the incident and he had heard with admiration of the hostages' release.

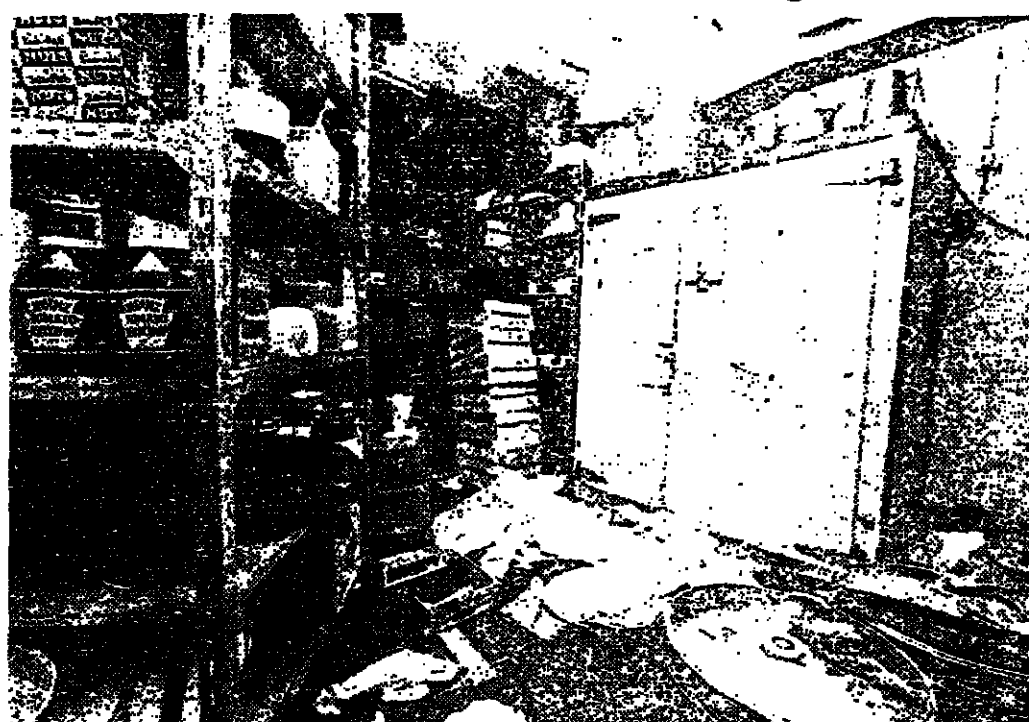
"We owe a considerable debt to the Metropolitan Police for the patience and restraint you have shown in carrying out your responsibilities. Please convey my warmest congratulations to all the men under your command for the way in which they have conducted themselves", Mr Wilson said.

The safe rescue of the hostages was a matter of considerable relief and joy which was much in evidence when Sir Robert Mark called a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday morning. Flanked by senior officers who "cat-napped" through the five days and nights of the siege, Sir Robert began by paying tribute to the 400 officers who took part in the operation.

The siege, Sir Robert said, was the kind of situation that senior officers had feared and for which they had drawn up contingency plans. They had studied similar police operations abroad and had listened to lectures by police officers from Europe and the United States with kidnapping experience. Senior officers led by Deputy Commissioner Colin Woods, had studied every facet of such operations which might one day become their lot to deal with.

"The basic principles of our contingency plans are entirely satisfactory and need no change", Sir Robert said. He suggested that when the officers had time for a "de-briefing", many lessons learnt in the siege might be included in any revision of plans.

Sir Robert also praised Signor



Top: The storeroom where the hostages were held for five days. Bottom left: Sir Robert Mark presenting a token of respect to Signor Mario Manca, Italian Consul General, yesterday. Bottom right: Signor Enrico Mainini being welcomed home after his ordeal.

Mario Manca, the Italian Consul General, for his efforts during the five-day ordeal. "The whole force, and the whole police service, recognizes in him a sensitive, gallant and truly unselfish man. I cannot praise his behaviour too highly. He must be a very tired man who has undergone very great strain."

Signor Manca, who was presented by Sir Robert with a mounted cross of the coat of arms of the Metropolitan Police, offered himself at one stage during the siege as a substitute hostage when one of his coun-

trymen was stated to be ill. The Commissioner refused the exchange, believing that it was putting yet another life in danger.

Signor Manca, showing signs of relief, smiled and said: "I only did what I felt was my duty. When I saw the hostages they asked me to convey their very deepest gratitude to the police for their constant concern for their relatives."

He disclosed that during his many conversations with the hostages through the closed storeroom door he was able to take advantage of the fact that

he was speaking in a language not understood by the gunmen to slip snippets of information and encouragement to the hostages without alarming the gunmen or adding to the tension.

Sir Robert paid tribute to the hostages whose courage throughout this ordeal was truly remarkable. He said he was impressed by the fortitude of the hostages' relatives, who kept calm despite their agony of mind.

Final praise came for press, television and radio men who

Continued on page 2, col 3

Rapist who terrorized Cambridge jailed for life

From David Leigh
Norwich

Peter Cook, aged 47, the van driver who terrorized Cambridge with a series of vicious rapes, was jailed for life yesterday by Mr Justice Melford Stevenson after admitting the crimes.

The judge said: "In the context of this case life ought to be a life of the largest possible numbers of well-meaning people, but I am satisfied that this is right."

He told Mr Cook that although he had acquired some skill in talking to psychiatrists, you show no compassion for your victims. He had used them to gratify his lust and terrorize a whole community.

He also sentenced him to a concurrent sentence of five years imprisonment on charges of wounding.

He had been told that medical reports on Mr Cook showed, in the judge's words, that "there is nothing wrong in the head". The reports said Mr Cook, who was once sent to Broadmoor and later released, was free of mental illness. He was not susceptible to treatment but could be handled within the prison system.

Earlier in the brief hearing, Crown counsel described Mr Cook's career as a rapist. The accused admitted six charges of rape and one of buggery.

Mr Brian Higgs, QC, for the defence, said Mr Cook was

driven to commit the rapes because of an addiction he had developed to pornographic films. The purveyors of this filth must bear some responsibility", Mr Higgs said.

A Staff Reporter writes: Legal experts agreed yesterday not only that it was unusual for a judge to make a recommendation that a man sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes other than murder should stay in prison for life, but also that such a comment was "entirely an informal expression of opinion", to quote a member of the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge.

In cases of murder a judge has a right, in passing the statutory life sentence, to suggest

that the convicted person should remain in custody for not less than a certain period.

The Law Society said that the ultimate decision must rest with the Home Secretary who, if he wished, could ignore such a recommendation.

The National Council for Civil Liberties suggested that in practical terms the judge's words would make no difference to what would happen to Mr Cook.

Report, page 3

New chairman named at British Leyland

British Leyland is not "bound to every conclusion and recommendation" in the Ryder Report, Professor Sir Ronald Edwards said yesterday on his appointment as the company's new non-executive chairman. He is president of the Beecham Group and a former chairman of the Electricity Council. Four other non-executive directors were named and Lord Stokes, chairman of the old British Leyland, is to be president. Leyland is also putting up the price of most of its vehicles by an average of 3.7 per cent. Page 17

Labour conference rejects call for Britain to leave Nato

On the last day of the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday defence, the media, and the disabled were discussed. In the defence debate a demand that Britain should withdraw from Nato was rejected after Mr Mikardo said such a withdrawal was not yet party policy. Those who sought to defend the manifesto, he said, should not go beyond it. Page 4

Israel-Egypt pact to be public

Despite the objections of Dr Kissinger, Secretary of State, the Senate foreign relations committee yesterday voted to make public documents on the Israel-Egypt agreement on Sinai. The documents apparently demonstrate that the Administration has no intention of selling Israel the Pershing missile at the moment. Page 5

Spain defiant on executions

The Spanish Cabinet, presided over by General Franco, yesterday brushed aside foreign criticism of the execution of the five terrorists, and said in a statement that it was determined to see that the law was carried out. Page 5

M Mollet dies

M. Guy Mollet, the French Socialist leader who was Prime Minister at the time of Suez, died yesterday at his home in Paris, aged 69. He had held many ministerial posts under the Fourth Republic. Page 16

Polytechnic fear

Some members of the staff of the North London Polytechnic do not share the confidence of Mr Terence Miller, the director, that the extremists have been routed. Page 3

Remembrance

The Queen has decided that Remembrance Day this year should be on Sunday, November 9. It is planned that two minutes' silence should be observed throughout the United Kingdom. Page 7

of Days of Hope (BBC 1); Irving Berlin on The Vortex (Greenwich Theatre); Sport, pages 6-8

Racing: Prospects for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and the Cambridge Stakes; Football: Draw for European competitions; Golf: Gallacher leads in Dunlop Masters Business News, pages 17-22

Stock markets: The one-point rise in MLR cut back early gains in share prices and the FT index closed 1.1 better, at 329.7, a fall of 13.9 over the two-week account. Personal investment and finance

The tax position of trusts is discussed by Vera Di Palma; John Drummond looks at personal accident insurance; Adrienne Gleeson answers readers' questions on fixed interest investment

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UVF claims Ulster killings

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

In the wake of the bloodiest 24-hour period of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland this year, the British Government was under mounting pressure yesterday to introduce a wide range of harsh new anti-terrorist measures.

It is, however, reliably understood that after weeks of intensive discussions with senior security advisers and civil servants Mr Rees has decided against the immediate reintroduction of detention. Meetings about possible changes of policy are believed to have been held at Stormont Castle late on Thursday night as the violence which claimed 12 lives was at its height.

Apart from detention, the main topic for discussion was the possible proscription of the Ulster Volunteer Force, the organization chiefly responsible.

The UVF yesterday claimed responsibility for most of the violent sectarian attacks. A statement said that they had

been carried out "to register their utter disgust and displeasure at the failure of the civil and military authorities to take effective counter-terrorist action following recent IRA bombings".

The statement also called on "loyalist" members of the security forces to refuse to co-operate with superiors committed to present security policy.

The statement warned "the Provisional IRA and the Irish Republican Socialist Party that Ulster loyalists will not tolerate a renewed campaign of violence against the province and the people of Northern Ireland."

The present policy of 'detention' between the Government and the Provisional IRA is totally unacceptable to the vast majority of Ulster loyalists and cannot be tolerated any longer by the Ulster Volunteers", it said.

In spite of the statement and the grisly evidence of a UVF tangle on an arm found close to the car of four bombers who blew themselves up, the Govern-

ment would serve no adequate security purpose.

Instead, a behind-the-scenes review of the legal complexities covering the outlawing of illegal organizations has been ordered. It is hoped that that study will find a way of amending the law to make it effective against membership of all terrorist groups operating in Ulster.

The Government is aware that it will face a barrage of criticism for not agreeing to outlaw the Ulster Volunteer Force, which it made legal last Spring in the vain hope that it would turn its attention to political activities.

It is argued by officials at Stormont Castle that recent arrest figures show that the normal processes of the law are capable of handling sectarian campaigns, even those on the scale launched on Thursday.

After raids in Protestant strongholds in Belfast and elsewhere, at least eight men connected with the UVF were

Concorde in service on January 21

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The Concorde supersonic airliner will begin services with fare-paying passengers on January 21, the Government said last night.

British Airways will fly from London to Bahrain, and Air France will operate between Paris and Rio de Janeiro, by way of Dakar, West Africa.

The January 21 date means a three-week delay in the planned introduction into service. The British Civil Aviation Authority has asked for additional tropical flight trials before issuing a certificate of airworthiness.

British Airways plans later to extend the Bahrain service to the Far East and Australia, and to open additional routes between London and the United States, Tokyo and Johannesburg.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Portuguese troops refuse to submit to discipline

From Michael Knipe
Lisbon, Oct 3

Military indiscipline increased in Portugal today with the refusal of 70 soldiers at an air base near Beja to accept a transfer to the Azores. The men's transfer was ordered as a punishment for taking part in a recent anti-Government demonstration.

A unit of 120 paratroopers from Tancos, in the central military region, was moved to the air base to force the dissident soldiers to accept the transfer, but the dissidents were reported to be continuing to resist. Colonel Carlos Cardoso, commanding officer of the base, apparently offered to resign, but was ordered to remain in command.

The civilian population of Beja, a Communist Party stronghold, is reported to be backing the dissident troops to a large extent. A group of them gathered at the barracks last night demanding that the transfer order be revoked. Workers staged a sympathy strike and their leaders threatened to bring the province to a standstill if the transfers went ahead.

In another incident, troops stationed in Evora last night marched at the head of a mass anti-Government demonstration which branded the newly created military intervention force as "the new PIDE"—an allusion to the secret police of the Salazar regime. In the north a full assembly of a local

transport regiment was called to debate the transfer of two officers and five soldiers.

Admiral Azevedo, the Prime Minister, is trying to use transfers as a means of reimposing military discipline, but it is clearly not proving any easy task.

In the central military region soldiers wearing red hoods announced that the dissident military organization Soldiers United with Win would be staging a mass demonstration in Coimbra, the capital of the region, next Tuesday to oppose "civilian democracy" and "to show that soldiers in the region are neither reactionaries nor asleep".

The Communist Party has called on the Government to place strict controls on foreigners in Portugal and to expel any who take part in public disturbances. The call was made in a front-page leading article in *Avante*, the party weekly, and appears to be related to the party's condemnation earlier this week of the ransacking of the Spanish Embassy and consulates by mobs protesting at the executions of revolutionaries and separatists.

The party seems to be using this issue to demonstrate its support for the Government which, although dominated by moderate military officers and socialists, includes a Communist minister and several Communist secretaries of state.

The government today denied that it was planning to devalue the escudo.

Eire Government will not bow to kidnappers

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

The Irish Government says it will not accede to the demands of the captors of Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch businessman who was kidnapped while driving to work at Newcastle, Monaleen, co Limerick, yesterday morning.

After the kidnapping, which took place shortly before 9 am, a telephone call was made to the Netherlands Embassy in Dublin saying that Dr Herrema would be executed unless three people serving prison sentences in the republic were released within 48 hours. The three named were Miss Rose Dugdale, who was given a nine-year sentence for her part in a theft of paintings, Kevin Mallon, the IRA leader who escaped from Mountjoy Prison in Dublin, two years ago, but was recaptured and is now in Portlaoine Prison, and James Hyland.

The kidnapping took place a few hundred yards from Dr Herrema's home. Nobody appears to have seen the incident, but on the previous night a green Cortina car with four men in it was seen parked on the wrong side of the road in the area. Police are seeking information about the car. Dr Herrema's car was discovered with the keys in the ignition.

Three hours after the abduction, a woman telephoned the embassy in Dublin and made the threat of execution unless three demands were met. These were: the release of the three prisoners; that the factory of Ferenka Ltd, of which Dr Herrema is chairman and managing director, should be closed for 48 hours as an act of good faith; and that there should be no road blocks or searches by the police.

Fifteen minutes later a similar ultimatum was tele-



Dr Tiede Herrema

phoned to a Dublin evening newspaper by a woman with a Northern accent.

The Government announced that police inquiries would proceed, and that there was no question of conceding the

demands, since to do so would be an abdication of government responsibility, would undermine the security of the state, and place other lives in danger.

Throughout the country there was intense police and military activity, with searches of remote houses. Road blocks were set up in all areas, particularly on roads leading to the border.

Last night the Provisional IRA in Dublin denied that any of its members was involved in the kidnapping.

Soon after the kidnapping Mr Jan Hunter, a director of AKZO, the international parent company of Ferenka Ltd, which manufactures steel cord for tyres, flew to Dublin. Later it was announced that the Ferenka factory, which employs more than 1,000 workers, would be shut for 48 hours in compliance with the kidnappers' demand.

'Observer' editor to retire

Mr David Astor last night announced his retirement as editor of *The Observer* after 27 years in the chair.

Mr Astor, aged 63, is to join *The Observer's* editorial staff, which will appoint a new editor, and he will probably hand over early next year.

Lawrence Daly seriously ill

Mr Lawrence Daly, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, was seriously ill last night with leg and chest injuries received in a road accident in Scotland. Three people died in the accident on the A74 near Beattock, Dumfriesshire, on Thursday night.

Blended for smoothness—it never varies

HOME NEWS

Peter Cook, the rapist who twice fooled the police into releasing him

From David Leigh

Peter Cook, the Cambridge rapist who was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday, played cat-and-mouse with the police for many months before his arrest.

Twice the police interrogated him and released him. They even searched his caravan and workshop, and he complained indignantly that he was being harassed.

The difficulty was that they assumed, given the scanty descriptions that were all they had to go on, that the rapist was aged under 30, although they were prepared to go up to 40. In fact, he was 47.

His campaign of rapes began on October 18 last with an attack on a student aged 20. She was at home in the evening wearing only a dressing gown when her lights went out and the door was pushed open. "I came to rob you, but I think I'll rape you first," Mr Cook said. He tied and gagged her and threatened her with a knife, as he did all his victims. Afterwards he asked: "Did you enjoy it?"

Mr John Marriage, QC, for the prosecution, told the court that a week later a student aged 20—who had just had a bath was tied up and raped. Mr Cook put an ether pad over her mouth.

His third victim fought back, kicked him in the groin, pulled off his wig and threw it after him.

Then a student, aged 18, at Homerton training college who went to a remote sound-proof building in the college to practise her calligraphy was raped. Mr Cook said he would murder her, tied her hands, put a curtain

over her head, took her to a shed in the darkness of the college grounds, and attacked her. He woke another Homerton student, aged 21, at midnight, cut her with a knife, tied her up, walked her downstairs out of the hostel, slit off her night-dress and underwear with a knife, and attacked her on the ground, saying as he did so: "I've got venereal disease."

It seemed that the humiliation of his victims was more important than the sexual act itself, counsel said.

After breaking into two houses, where he was disturbed one night before Christmas he attacked a woman aged 20 in a flat. She was badly cut by his knife and the struggle needed 20 stitches.

The next spring a receptionist aged 23 was awakened by a man shining a torch and trying to break open the hook on her bedroom door. He forced it open and told the panicked woman: "I'm the Cambridge rapist."

He was wearing a black hood. Again he cut off her nightdress, raped her and tied her up. She was able later to push open a window and call for help.

His final rape was in daylight. By then he had written the word "rapist" on his hood, telling the police later that it saved him from having to introduce himself and terrified his victim. He tied her up, put a victim in the stomach, causing a three-quarter-inch wound.

"By this time there was near panic," Mr Marriage said. Police were on the streets all night without taking breaks. Mr Cook was caught at last when an attempt failed and he was captured riding away on



Peter Cook, convicted yesterday for the Cambridge rapes, with (left) the wig, scarf and sunglasses that formed part of his disguise and (right) the hood marked "Rapist" he wore during the last attacks.

a bicycle, disguised as a woman.

He told police after his capture: "You know it all. The only way out for me is suicide."

He was capable of doing anything when he was in the mood, he told police, adding: "What I'd done to the girls made me sick."

Counsel for the defence said Mr Cook had once tried to telephone one of his victims afterwards to see if she was better. When a psychiatrist made a television appeal to the rapist, Mr Cook made contact with him and said half of him was compelled to act, but half of him was sorry. He failed to turn up at a meeting the psychiatrist arranged.

Peter Cook turned to rape after years spent in institutions and prisons, including a spell in Broadmoor.

It appears to have been an accident that, having stumbled on one potential victim, he should recognize the sexual scope his pointless obsession violation of people's houses offered.

From then on he set out to terrorize the residents of Cambridge. In a secret compartment at his home he kept the press cuttings relating to his exploits.

They told of the arousal of such fear in the town that no woman went home alone at night, scores of police hid week after week up trees and behind

dustbins, and the lives of short men who vaguely fitted his description were made miserable by the public.

He was first brought before a court at the age of 10 for being beyond parental control. He went from approved school to hospital, then to prison. He escaped from Springfield mental hospital and was later sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for robbery. But outwardly, he had settled down since he came out of Broadmoor in 1968 after spending 17 months there.

The Broadmoor authorities discharged him because they said he could not be improved. He had no record of violence and they did not think he was a fit person to be held there.

The police always viewed Mr Cook's term in Broadmoor with scepticism. They are convinced that he decided it was in his own interests to appear deranged.

He lived in a well-appointed caravan behind his parents' home in Hardwick, a village a few miles outside Cambridge. He had married a village girl and was financially indulged by his father, who had made a windfall sale of development land.

Mr Cook's life as a van driver appeared quiet, apparently punctuated only by visits to Banham's boathouse and to his motor cruiser moored on the Cam.

He lent sex films to his

acquaintances in the village, however, and occasionally called at the Love Inn sex shop in Cambridge, there to embarrass the owners by his uncouth behaviour and wild claims to be the notorious rapist.

The police were at a loss as the rapes multiplied. They thought they were looking for a man aged under 30.

They thought the man they were looking for had long hair. But the woman who pulled his wig off, it turned out, had been confronted with a second wig over Mr Cook's crew-cut hair.

Police also thought the rapist was slipping away through the dark back streets. But in fact Mr Cook cycled away in female clothes with his rapist's gear in the saddlebag: a home-made zip-mouthed leather hood with "Rapist" on the forehead, an ether bottle and pad, and a device for fusing lights.

By the spring only a couple of doubtful clues had been found. The attacker seemed to have five fingerprints, and had once attempted a burglary immediately before a rape. There was also a sample of fresh semen.

The first daylight rape, with its opportunity to check alibis that would have to be more convincing than "I was asleep in bed at the time", proved disappointing. Mr Cook seemed to have an excellent alibi.

Acquaintances testified that he had been at Banham's boathouse all lunchtime on the day of the attack, unaware that he had slipped out at the back on his bicycle and returned to stand on the bridge chatting as the ambulance drove by to his latest victim.

Meanwhile forensic scientists

estimated by a mixture of blood-group type and demographic statistics that the attacker was one in 10,000 of the population.

Eventually they would have tested Mr Cook if only to rule him out, but even if they found a man with the right blood group there was no evidence to stand up in court, no face that a girl could identify.

By then the situation was that women had to be protected at best they could (the streets at night were alive with policemen), but the best development the police could hope for was one more rape. It would give them a chance to catch him in the act.

They were lucky. At 2 am on June 8 a hooded, leather-clad figure knocked on the hotel door of a woman aged 28. She opened it on the newly-fitted safety chain and screamed piercingly and repeatedly as her attacker slashed her hand with a knife.

Two men fishing for eels 200 yards away heard her. So did the hotel porter. The rapist just managed to escape, but 100 patrolling policemen received instant orders to stop everyone they saw.

A mile away Det Constable Terence Edwards, subsequently commended by the chief constable, decided to take a risk when he saw a woman in a red coat, glasses, and black court shoes with gold buckles pedalling slowly towards him.

She would not stop, so he knocked her to the ground. Mr Cook's wig came off and in his saddle bag was the rapist's hood, the unmistakable trademark of what Det Chief Supt Bernard Hosson described as Cambridge's "vicious shadow".

Social workers urged not to operate service cuts

From Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent
Edinburgh

Social workers were urged yesterday not only to oppose cuts in the social services but to refuse to implement them. Mr John Barrer told the annual conference of the British Association of Social Workers in Edinburgh that the call by Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, for social workers to explain the cuts was nonsense.

He added: "It is not our job to do her dirty work."

Mr Barrer, who is chairman of the association's parliamentary, public relations and social policy committee, listed ways in which social workers could stop the cuts. They could refuse to carry out the eligibility tests applied to many services and they could refuse to overstretch themselves as the pressure of cases built up.

"Let the local council carry the can," he said. "Masochism is not a necessary characteristic of social workers."

Mr Christopher Andrews, gen-

eral secretary of the association, urged vigorous opposition to the cuts. They would lead to misery and hardship among social workers' clients, and that must be brought to the attention of those in a position to do something about it.

Mr Andrews said that the "Care Costs" campaign, launched earlier this year had succeeded in gaining public acceptance of the fact that social services departments were already under severe pressure. The hypocrisy of willing the end without willing the means was also being acknowledged.

"We must recognize that we are no longer talking about cutbacks in growth, delaying projects or other developments, but about cutbacks in existing services," Mr Andrews said. By all accounts the situation is going to get worse before it gets better.

Social workers must fight the battle locally as well as nationally to ensure that local authorities used their powers to determine their own priorities.

Judge puts a rapist on probation

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A High Court judge put a man on probation for two years yesterday after he had pleaded, guilty to rape.

Mr Justice Crichton said at Manchester Crown Court: "There are special facts in this case and I think one must have the courage to pass such a sentence whatever may be said by the more well-meaning people in the newspapers. In view of what I believe is the proper sentence, I am proposing to take my place in the pillory."

The judge had heard that William McGuffie, aged 18, a salesman, of Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, brought about his own prosecution for raping a mother of two, aged 21, by reporting three attacks on himself by her husband, the last three months after the offence.

Mr Kenneth Taylor, for the prosecution, said it was an odd story which began when Mr McGuffie met the woman and her husband in a public house. The husband left the others together after a peculiar incident, in which Mr McGuffie gave the husband £5 as a "bond" that he would have the wife home by 2 am. On the way home Mr McGuffie ripped the woman's dress before having sexual intercourse with her.

He had taken her home, but was thrown out by the husband when he saw his wife's distressed condition. The rape was not reported to the police until after Mr McGuffie had been attacked.

Oxford stadium to close

Speedway and greyhound racing at Oxford are to end. Oxford stadium will close, probably at the end of the year, and is likely to become a council housing estate.

Mr Ian Stevens, managing director of the stadium company, said yesterday that an offer of £235,000 from Oxford City Council had been accepted. The site already has planning permission for 112 homes.

Mr Peart 'has miserably failed' to help farming

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

A claim that Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, had miserably failed to promote in Cabinet the interests of farmers was made last night by Mr Michael Jopling, his Conservative counterpart.

Mr Jopling said at a conference of animal feed manufacturers in Newcastle upon Tyne that the Government had allowed an unprecedented fall in home food output in the past 18 months. "The trouble is that Mr Peart's voice amounts to little more than a plaintive whining compared with the shrill determination of Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Hesley to keep food prices down."

"It is hard to understand, even with Mr Peart's shortcomings as a persuasive force in

the Cabinet, why he has failed to convince his colleagues of this simple truth: that if we can not produce now, we shall suffer shortages and high prices in the years ahead."

It was foolish to put food supplies more than ever at the mercy of importers when world prices were high and the balance of payments unfavourable. Mr Jopling said that the decline in home food output this year, which might come to as much as a tenth, would discourage farmers from raising their output in the next five years.

Unless Mr Peart mends his ways or makes way for someone who is capable of guiding farming back to the expansionist path, there is no hope of reaching the targets set out in the Government's own five-year policy for expansion.

Yoghurt labelling must be tightened, experts say

By Hugh Clayton

The Food Standards Committee believes that the rules for labelling yoghurt should be made more strict. It says processors should not call flavoured yoghurt "natural" to distinguish it from yoghurt with fruit. Neither is more or less natural than the other.

The committee consists of 11 academics and other experts appointed by ministers. The review of yoghurt with "other cultured milks and cream and milk desserts" was announced in October, 1972.

It recommends that nothing with less than 34 per cent milk fat should be called simply "yoghurt". A content of between 1 and 2 per cent milk fat should qualify for the names "partly skimmed yoghurt" and "reduced fat yoghurt", and anything with even less fat should be called "skimmed yoghurt" or "low fat yoghurt".

Food Standards Committee Report on Yoghurt (Stationery Office, 37p).

Life sentence for burning couple to death

From Our Correspondent
Winchester

Aubrey Boswell saw the woman he had previously lived with in bed with another man, threw a bucket of petrol over them and burnt them to death, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Boswell, aged 38, of Macklin Road, Salisbury, was jailed for life after pleading guilty to murdering Mrs Edna Ann Peck, aged 35, of Ash Road, and Mr Henry Albert Hunt, aged 53, of Devizes Road, Salisbury.

Mr Swinton Thomas, for the prosecution, said that Mr Boswell started living with Mrs Peck in 1959, and they had six children. Their relationship was stormy because of his violence, and last November she left. Early this year her relationship with Mr Hunt began.

Oil on south coast

A seven-mile oil slick polluted beaches between Exmouth and Chesil Beach, Dorset, yesterday. A coastguard spokesman said it was caused by gales.



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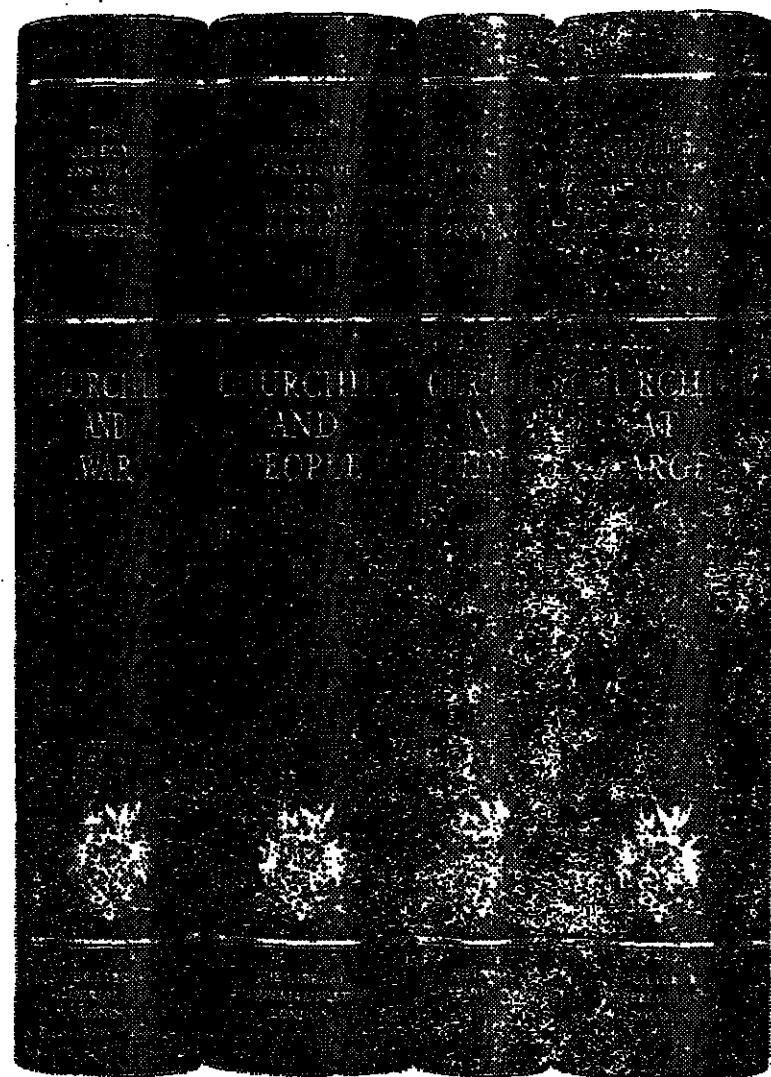
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edition which will be cherished by your family for generations to come.

The four-volume Collected Essays of Sir Winston Churchill is published exclusively by the Library of Imperial History. Intending subscribers are urged to act promptly. The subscription roll-calls must close on November 30, 1975, and any application received after that date must regretfully be refused.

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THE EDITOR OF THE COLLECTED ESSAYS, WRITES

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Many of these essays could be reprinted today with only minor alterations and nobody would know that they were written half a century and more ago. It is hard to tell whether Churchill was gifted with supernatural foresight or whether things have not really changed all that much. Either way, he himself had no doubt from the outset: "I have faith in my pen. I believe the thoughts I can put on paper will interest and be popular with the public."

WEST EUROPE

Spanish Cabinet officially defies foreign criticism as more countries attack Franco regime

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Oct 3

The latest killings of policemen have strengthened the determination of the Spanish Government "to carry out the law and see that the law is fulfilled", according to a communiqué issued in Madrid today.

The phrase was part of an official summary of matters dealt with at today's regular Cabinet meeting presided over by General Franco at his El Pardo palace on the outskirts of Madrid. The wording of other parts of the communiqué made clear the firm position of the Government over foreign criticism of its decision to execute five political extremists last week.

Señor Carlos Arias, the Prime Minister, is reported to have told General Franco that members of the Cabinet were enormously satisfied with the way Spaniards cheered him at the big rally in Madrid on Wednesday, and expressed "their protest against the extraordinary foreign campaign against Spanish sovereignty and against our very own motherland".

Señor Leon Herrera, Minister of Information and Tourism, is said to have told the general that cancellations by tourists of previously booked holidays in Spain amount to "only isolated instances of little importance".

As if further evidence was needed that the regime does not intend to alter its policy in the face of foreign pressure, Señor Fernando Suarez, the Labour Minister, was quoted in today's Madrid newspapers as saying:

"The Government is not going to confuse liberalization with abdication from its prime duty energetically to repel attacks."

Señor Suarez was speaking at a meeting of a legislative committee of the Cortes (Parliament). "The unhesitating condemnation of terrorist actions and of anti-regime manoeuvres... is the best guarantee for constant advancement," he said.

Several legal or "tolerated" political organizations issued statements condemning political violence. The illegal but relatively unpersecuted Spanish Social Democratic Union said it condemns "violence as a political method regardless of where it comes from, regardless of whom it serves, because it leads only to conflict without solution."

"But we also state that the death penalty is not an adequate measure to combat this phenomenon," as the most recent events regrettably demonstrate, and we urge its abolition as well as the strictest respect for the most fundamental human rights."

Fedisa, a so-called independent study group being used as the nucleus of a possible future political party by people including Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the Spanish Ambassador in London, said in a statement rejected violent solutions, saying: "Extremist elements are trying to block the evolution towards future democracy."

"The present events should not serve to delay or to abandon the solution of the serious problems facing Spanish society

in its deep and just aspiration for change, reform and 'up-to-dateness'."

The Christian Democratic Union, which has no legal existence, said: "The union, whose objectives include making a democratic regime workable as soon as possible and by means of peaceful evolution, states its most absolute repulsion for those who participate in terrorism and those who in one way or another support or defend it."

Stockholm: Mr Olaf Palme, the Prime Minister, and Mr Gunnar Sträng, the Finance Minister, led Social Democratic Party members in a campaign to raise funds for opponents of the Franco regime in Stockholm yesterday.

Large crowds gathered around Mr Palme when he stood in a market place with a collection box. Both he and Mr Sträng said the campaign was going well—Ullste.

Vienna: Fifty-four policemen were injured, four seriously, in a street battle with anti-Franco demonstrators. The demonstrators, mainly Maoists and Trotskyists, wrecked the office of the Spanish airline, Iberia, and stoned a police cordon.

The violence, exceptional by Austrian standards, came after a peaceful demonstration organized by socialist and other groups.

Berlin: East Germany yesterday broke off diplomatic relations with Spain. The decision was taken after sharp East German criticism of the executions in Spain.—Reuter.

Controversy over French judge's jail ruling

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Oct 3

French legal circles have been shaken by the action of a young progressive judge in committing to prison a company director accused over a fatal industrial accident.

The judge, M de la Charette, aged 26, said today that his decision was designed to stir the public conscience on the problem of the increase in labour accidents, of which the culprit "too often goes unpunished."

The big question now is whether the grand jury of Douai, which is sitting tomorrow to consider M Chapron's appeal against the judge's ruling, will decide to release him. As some commentators point out, the very celerity with which it has been summoned is, in itself, significant.

It would be surprising if it did not free him, in view of a recent amendment to the criminal code making detention pending trial an exceptional procedure.

In spite of this reform, there are today 27,500 people in French prisons, more than half of them awaiting trial, and the tendency of judges is still to put people under lock and key, even petty criminals.

At the same time, the law on labour security has been tightened up, and breaches of it are now among the most serious offences, along with tax evasion and procuring.

"So why be surprised that a judge should not hesitate to do for the author of a serious accident what he is trained to do daily for a pimp or a thief?" a retired judge writes today in *Le Quotidien de Paris*.

All the big guns of the judicial and industrial establishments are now turned against this maverick of the bench, who dared to challenge existing practices and prejudices and accuse the French justice of having one law for the managers and another for the workers.

M Jean Foyer, a former Gaullist holder of the same post, is today turning judge's decision as illegal and his behaviour as intolerable.

The judges' union to which he belongs is a subversive left-wing organization, preparing the coming of a "class justice, like that of Eastern Europe."

But even the trade unions are divided on the issue. Force Ouvrière and the CGC, the white collar workers' union, regard his statements as injurious both to French justice and to the chemical workers branch of the Left-wing CFTD in M Chapron's plant, however, today made serious accusations about the bad security conditions in his tar plant near Lens.

Belgian leader begins visit to Rome

Rome, Oct 3.—M Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, arrived here today for a four-day official visit as part of his mission to prepare a report on the future of the European Community.—AP.

Churchgoing drop worries Archbishop of Paris

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Oct 3

In the past 13 years, the number of churchgoers in Paris has fallen by 47 per cent. A count taken in March in all the churches and chapels resulted in the figure of 191,420, compared with 364,261 in a similar count in 1962. Over the same period, the fall in religious observance throughout the country was 20 per cent.

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"It is high time to reeducate the Christian conscience on the meaning of Sunday which remains the day of the Lord," he said.

OVERSEAS

New York default risk alarms Herr Schmidt

President Ford is warned of international repercussions

From Frank Vogl US Economics Correspondent Washington, Oct 3

The pressures on President Ford to back down and grant government assistance to New York City sharply intensified today with a blistering attack on the President in the *New York Times* and New York State's financial standing being called into question by one of the nation's leading credit rating agencies.

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, added an international dimension to the problem by issuing a warning that a default on debt repayments by the city could have an "enormous impact" on credit markets.

Herr Schmidt is believed to have raised the question of government assistance to the city when he met the President today. At a press conference in New York, he said: "Not only for the sake of the city of New York is it necessary to make the greatest efforts to try to overcome the obvious difficulties, but it is also very much in the interests of economic

psychology in the rest of the world."

He suggested that a default by New York City would have an impact on credit markets immensely greater than that felt last year when the Franklin National Bank of New York and the Herstatt Bank of Cologne went bankrupt. He added emphatically that New York City's problems could become international economic problems of prime importance because of the psychological effect on foreign investors.

In a leading article this morning *The New York Times* bluntly rebuked President Ford for repeatedly citing the City's autonomy as examples of irresponsibility and for doing nothing to help the now considerable local effort being made to improve the city's finances. The newspaper said that Mr Ford's comments "betray his own incredible insensitivity to a potentially disastrous situation that could affect every city in the country."

The Washington Post re-

ported today that Mr William Simon, the Secretary of the Treasury, may be reconsidering his opposition to federal aid to the city in the light of the growing possibility that New York State may face financial difficulties of its own if the city goes bankrupt.

The White House, however, was quick to respond to this report and Mr Ron Nessen, the chief spokesman, emphasized that Mr Ford had not changed his mind. The President was still firmly against the idea that the Government should bail out New York.

The danger to New York State's financial health that is posed by the city's trouble was clearly illustrated by an announcement from Moody's Investor Service, one of the most influential bond market rating agencies in the country. It said it was sharply lowering its credit ratings for many of the state's outstanding bonds and notes, and withdrawing altogether its rating on some state notes.

Moody today downgraded a

long list of New York State city bond and note issues, just as it became well known that the state may have to raise quickly some \$140m (nearly £70m) to save one of its housing agencies from defaulting. There are several state agencies now on the verge of bankruptcy. The strains on the state's finances are increasing, while the city will be very lucky to limp through the next two months without defaulting unless some sudden rescue plan is put together.

Herr Schmidt lunched at the White House today and international economic matters, as well as New York's plight, are believed to have been discussed.

The West German leader is trying to put pressure on the Administration to take additional refinancing measures and reduce United States' interest rate levels. It is possible that President Ford told Herr Schmidt that he will agree to a 12-month extension of the one-year tax cuts enacted earlier this year.

Senate committee votes to release documents on Sinai agreement

From Fred Emery Washington, Oct 3

Congress today gave the Administration its way in resuming arms supplies to Turkey, and came close to preparing final assent to sending 200 American observers to Sinai.

It also emerged in authoritative quarters that the Israelis are unlikely to be permitted to have the Pershing missile which would have placed virtually all Arab capitals within striking range.

These issues are interrelated only in that Congress has been demanding far more of a share in policy making and in access to undertakings offered to foreigners than the Administration has been prepared to give.

Apparently the objections of Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to make public four documents of understanding relating to the Sinai agreement between Israel and Egypt. They had been leaked to the press, apparently in full, but Dr Kissinger pleaded in vain that Government authentication through Congress would embarrass all sides.

One of the documents had disclosed the American undertaking to Israel to study requests for such weapons as the Pershing and the F16 fighter "with a view to making a favourable response". It has also now been revealed, with-

out denial, that Israel is buying the anti-air missile Harpoon which Britain is also buying.

A storm ensued over the Pershing, not least with the Pentagon which complained that no conventional warhead was available for it and that it opposed taking any missiles out of American stocks for conversion to the non-nuclear role.

Now it has been disclosed that there is no intention of supplying the missile, at least not as far as this Administration is concerned. It is admitted that Dr Kissinger only went on at Israel insistence to commit the weapons "study" to paper in order to get them to sign the Sinai agreement. But informed sources insist the language implied no commitment and none will be forthcoming.

This will hardly please the Israelis, but all the attention here is on gaining crucial congressional approval for the stationing of Americans at the early warning systems in the Sinai. Without it the whole agreement is in abeyance.

The whole House of Representatives, after approval in the international relations committee, of stationing of the Sinai personnel, is now expected to approve it by the end of next week. The Senate is expected to agree next week also assuming there are no further snags.

The main point is that Congress wants presidential certification that it has been in-

formed of all the undertakings that have been made, which means any that might transpire after would not be binding on the United States. What is to be made public is also a problem. The Administration wanted only a summary, but today's committee decision shows the difficulty.

As for Turkey, the Ankara Government is bound to feel disgruntled that there has been only a partial lifting of the arms embargo imposed by Congress. Nevertheless, the House vote last night, by 237 to 176, followed by swift Senate approval this morning, represented a reversal by Congress and recognition that the embargo got nowhere in forcing a Cyprus solution.

The bill permits Turkey to receive \$185m (£92.5m) worth of equipment ordered before the embargo went into effect a year ago. It would also allow Turkey to make new purchases, but these would have to be for Nato purposes.

A last ditch rider approved by the Senate today, commits Mr Ford to discuss the question of poppies for opium which are believed to supply the illicit American market.

Our Ankara Correspondent writes: The Turkish Government today gave a half-hearted welcome to the partial lifting of the arms embargo, while Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Opposition leader, violently attacked both the Congress and the Turkish Government.

Beirut fighting slackens as troops move into suburbs

Beirut, Oct 3.—Security forces

moved in to keep the peace today between warring militias in the outer suburbs of Beirut where killings and kidnappings have prevented a return to normal life after two weeks of sectarian warfare.

Casualties in the conflict, the fourth round of fighting this year, were at least 367 dead and 650 wounded. The toll of dead and wounded since the clashes began in April was close to 4,000.

Mr Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, who had his fifth meeting with the 20-man National Dialogue Committee today said the security situation in the capital had improved. The committee, representing

all political and religious groups, had ordered a withdrawal of all gunmen from street barricades in suburban areas where fighting still continued despite the official ceasefire negotiated on September 20. The response had been "satisfactory," Mr Karami said. The city had enjoyed a generally peaceful day.

The National Dialogue Committee, formed to reconcile differences between Muslim and Christian groups, fixed a meeting for next Thursday to start work on planning political, social and economic reforms.

With the Muslim feast of Id al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Ramadan fast, due to begin on Monday all political quarters were hopeful of the present calm continuing.—UPI.

New 'wave' of detentions in Chile

Geneva, Oct 3.—The World

Council of Churches said today that two Presbyterian ministers were arrested on September 29 in Chile in a new wave of detentions by the military junta.

The family of one of the ministers was detained two days later, the council said.

News of the arrests was received in Geneva by Bishop Helmut Frenz of Santiago. He said the two arrested ministers were the Rev Juan Polanco, National Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Chile, and the Rev Dennis Oshee, Moderator of the Norte Grande area of the same church.—UPI.

Emperor lays wreath at 'Tomb of Unknowns'

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Oct 3

Emperor Hirohito of Japan today laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns—the Memorial in the Arlington National Cemetery to unknown Americans brought home from Second World War battlefields for burial.

The imperial couple today also called on the American National Red Cross, and saw some of the memorials to past Presidents.

The couple are giving a return Banquet for President and Mrs Ford tonight at the main hall of the Smithsonian Institution.

President Sadat to address UN General Assembly

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Oct 3

President Sadat will deliver Egypt's speech at the United Nations General Assembly on October 27 after arriving in the United States for the first official visit by an Egyptian President.

He will come to Washington on October 26 for an eight-day visit, during which he will hold talks with President Ford and Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State. Economic assistance and military supplies will be among the topics to be discussed.

Mr Sadat is at loggerheads with the Soviet leaders over their refusal to provide Egypt with sophisticated weapons to make up its losses during the 1973 war with Israel.

On his way to Washington, Mr Sadat will pay a 34-hour visit to Paris for talks with President Giscard d'Estaing. He was in France in February and his visit resulted in an arms deal that included Mirage fighter-bombers.

On the way home, he will pay a three-day official visit to Britain, starting on November 5, the first to be made by an Egyptian president.

Amin visit to UN ends in diplomats' boycott

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Oct 3

President Amin of Uganda left New York today after a three-day visit in which he did not hesitate to speak his mind about his favourite subjects, Britain, Israel and the United States all came in for criticism. Diplomats have been hard put to it to know how to handle his outbursts.

Last night British, American and Israeli representatives boycotted a reception he gave on behalf of the Organization of African Unity. The Israelis had previously made a formal protest to the United Nations about his behaviour.

At a press conference at the United Nations last night, President Amin was softer on the British. "They are my friends," he said. "I love them very much. But I don't want civil war in Britain. I don't want to see Protestants killing Catholics, or Catholics killing Protestants."

He made some allegations which cannot be proved, either the Israelis or the Americans. He had been in Syria during the last Arab-Israeli war, he said, and had met captured Israeli pilots who told him that they had been chained to their aircraft to force them to fight.

As for the United States, New York was bankrupt because American money was being spent on sending arms to Israel to "murder the Arabs". Zionists owned the banks and much else in the United States, he asserted.

Much of the questioning at the press conference was hostile, but President Amin, dressed in civilian clothes, answered the questions benignly and managed to sidestep some that he may have found embarrassing.

When he was asked about disrespect for a head of state being a capital offence in Uganda, he replied that Uganda had the same standard as America and other countries; it was highly civilized and was friendly to everyone.

As for Mr Denis Hills, the British lecturer threatened with execution, he had told President Amin that he was writing nonsense. He said he was forced to do it by the British Government and that he was working for a secret organization in the United States.

He had disclosed that the organization was working for the murder of "strong, brilliant leaders like me".

President Amin referred to a photograph of British people kneeling in front of him. They had done so as a sign of their "love, loyalty and respect" for him, their commander, he said. On the subject of the Commonwealth, he said he thought that now Britain was in the European Community, it was not doing a lot for Commonwealth countries. The Commonwealth was like a club and "not very important for me".

Five police killed in Thailand ambush

Bangkok, Oct 3.—Five policemen were killed and five wounded in a communist guerrilla ambush in southern Thailand, police said today. It was the third clash in the area this year.—Reuter.

New talks on Chad captive

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Oct 3

A French Government envoy and Mr Hissen Habre, the leader of the Touabou guerrillas in Chad, will meet tomorrow to discuss the conditions for the release of Mme Clausure, the French ethnologist held by the guerrillas since April 1974.

According to reliable sources, the French envoy will not be M Louis Morel, the Prefect of the Vosges, who was sent to Chad a fortnight ago and headed off 4m francs (about £400,000).

Earlier this week the Elysée spokesman announced that part of the non-military stores making up the remaining 6m francs of the ransom had already been parachuted to the guerrillas.

The spokesman emphatically denied that a plan was being worked out by the Defence Ministry for a rescue operation including paratroops.

Pope confirms virtues of Irish alcoholic

Rome, Oct 3.—The Vatican

today confirmed the miracles and "heroic virtues" attributed to seven Roman Catholics, including an Irish sevedore who was an alcoholic at the age of 12.

The Pope heard officials of the Congregation of Causes of Saints read out decrees certifying the deeds of the seven, a step towards beatification and possibly sainthood.

The only candidate for canonization was the Blessed Charles Makhouf, a Lebanese monk who died on Christmas Eve, 1898, at the age of 70.

Candidates for beatification, often, but not necessarily the first step towards sainthood, included: Matthew Talbot, a Dublin sevedore who overcame alcoholism; and a nun who was born in Münster, Germany, in 1863 and died in Oporto, Portugal, in 1899. The remaining four were Italians.—UPI.

Talbot died in 1925, and Vatican sources originally predicted his beatification might take place in 1954.

Sponsors of Talbot's cause said he used to get drunk at the age of 12, and later developed an insatiable appetite for liquor and gambling. His conversion, according to the account of his life, came suddenly on a Saturday afternoon.

Matt Talbot was broke. He had spent all his money at the bar and found no one willing to lend him more. He wandered outside, saw a dog sniffing at an empty bottle and thought of himself.

No more alcohol, he decided. Other candidates for beatification included Sister Mary of the Divine Heart, a nun who was born in Münster, Germany, in 1863 and died in Oporto, Portugal, in 1899. The remaining four were Italians.—UPI.

No sign of canal blockade ending after six weeks

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Oct 3

The blockade of Belgium's inland waterways approached the end of its sixth week today amid signs that the country's 9,000 barges might be joined by road hauliers in pressing for basic wage guarantees and better working and social conditions for themselves and their families.

It seemed likely that the strike would peter out about the middle of last month when the Government, after fruitless negotiations over a minimum freight rates with representatives of the barges and freight company officials, announced its intention of requisitioning "all barges necessary to provide the nation with vital supplies."

The authorities underestimated the stubborn ingenuity of the barges and their foreign sympathizers. Many of the requisitioned vessels mysteriously developed engine failure. In other instances, an impenetrable ring of foreign craft prevented officials from

commandeering the Belgian boats.

In spite of reports that the barricades of barges were being dismantled, Belgium's inland waterway system has remained paralysed with most of the main canals blocked. The Belgian fleet totals about 9,000 barges but an equivalent number of foreign vessels are thought to be involved in the blockade.

The renewed blockade this week of the canal linking Ghent with the Dutch port of Terneuzen, on the Scheldt estuary, has emphasized the international implications of the strike.

Altogether about 500 Dutch barges are reported to be idle, and Belgium-bound cargoes arriving at Terneuzen for onward transport by canal are being transferred to lorries.

In the long run the barges would seem to be fighting a losing battle. The barge sector accounts for about 20 per cent of Belgium's transport system, but it is steadily contracting in the face of competition from road and rail transport.

Police recover ransom paid to kidnappers

Metz, France, Oct 3.—Police

today recovered a two million franc (£220,000) ransom paid to the kidnappers of a 12-year-old girl abducted in Metz last Monday. Valerie Ruppert, daughter of a local butcher, was released unharmed on Wednesday evening.

Police found the money under the bathroom floorboards in the home of an electrician. The man, his wife and his mistress are expected to be charged later, police said.—Reuter.

Churchgoing drop worries Archbishop of Paris

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Oct 3

In the past 13 years, the number of churchgoers in Paris has fallen by 47 per cent. A count taken in March in all the churches and chapels resulted in the figure of 191,420, compared with 364,261 in a similar count in 1962. Over the same period, the fall in religious observance throughout the country was 20 per cent.

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He also qualified the figures for Paris. The city's population, he said, fluctuates at weekends and during holidays. Many Parisians attended mass in the parishes of their country houses. Many marriages also took place in the country for "ecological and economic reasons." There was also television, which broadcast a high mass every Sunday.

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Katharine Whitehorn • Hugh McIlvanney • Malcolm Muggeridge • Anthony Sampson • Philip Toynbee • Clive James



Encounters with O'Hara

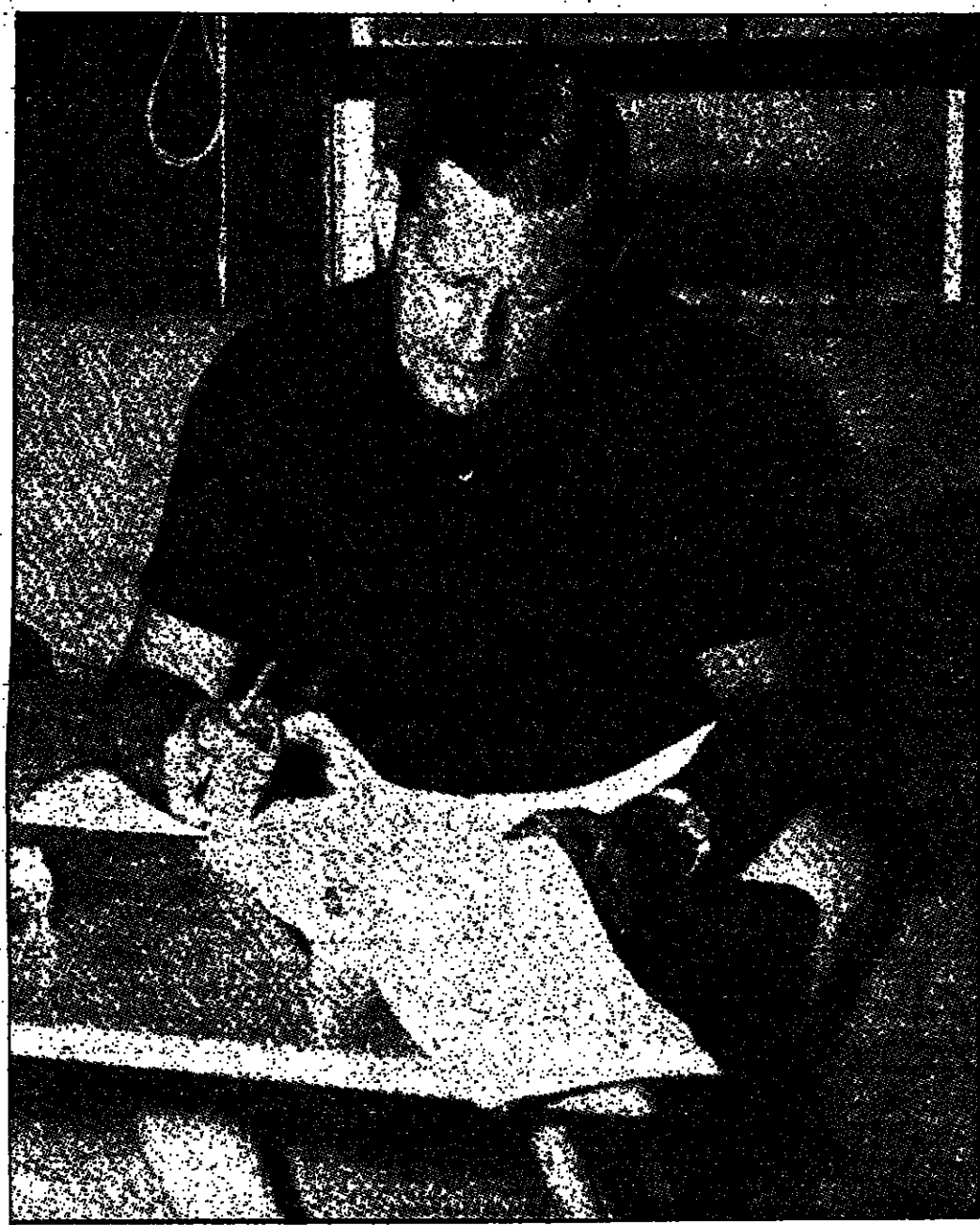
by Brendan Gill

I met O'Hara for the first time by chance, in the Algonquin lobby. He had been having lunch there with a friend and had in common, John Hersey. O'Hara had been ready to leave; instead, he and I sat down for a moment's chat, and the chat lasted three hours. It was a cold winter's day; one could see through the glass front doors of the hotel snow falling hard in Forty-fourth Street. O'Hara was wearing—wouldn't you know!—a coonskin coat and a plaid Brooks Brothers cap. All the time that we talked he never troubled to take off his heavy coat.

I was startled by O'Hara's ugliness. He was in the middle thirties and had already grown heavy; his head rose out of an exceptionally thick neck and his ears stuck out bizarrely from fleshy cheeks. To make matters worse, he had a bad complexion and a mouthful of decaying teeth, which he was all too slowly having replaced. In spite of his looks and my awe of him, we got on. We were about 10 years apart in age, but we found we had much in common besides our friend Hersey; we were both Irish, we were both sons of doctors, we were both from communities that turned their backs on New York and we were both married to New York Protestants. Best of all, I had gone to Yale and made Bones, and O'Hara had wanted desperately to go to Yale and make Bones. He knew all about my particular group in Bones (of which Hersey was also a member), but, then, it seemed on that long, snowy afternoon that there wasn't anything he didn't know about in regard to college and prep-school matters down to the chants of the youngest school-boy at Lawrenceville. It was, for example, Bones custom never to speak of the secret society itself but to speak of it in terms of its location in New Haven; one said, "How are things on High Street?"

O'Hara knew that, though he didn't tell me, he knew it; he revealed it indirectly many years later, when he was anxiously awaiting word of his election to the Century Club. Happening to encounter his neighbour in Princeton, Frederick B. Adams, who is both a Bones man and a Centurian, O'Hara said: "Tell me, Fred—how are things on Forty-third Street?"

O'Hara envied my being able to write factual pieces for the magazine as well as fiction. He had a number of possible "Reporter at Large" pieces that he wanted to do, but somehow they never worked out. He did succeed in writing one little Department of Amplifications, about how he had happened to be a race horse named "O'Hara," a horse named by him but not after him; the piece must have pleased him, because it established that he was a close friend of the Jack Whites and the Charles Paysons, and they were society figures who meant a great deal to him. He also published a single poem in the magazine. It was entitled "Stars in My Eyes" and described, in rhyming couplets, a number of the leading movie actresses of the day; its most notable couplet was:



John O'Hara: a rancorous air of superiority and an impatient yearning for fame.

worked the story out in his head, over no telling how many hours of days, and what he was setting down with such fiendish ease was simply a fair copy. Selly Benson followed a similar writing system, with similar miraculous-seeming consequences. She would lie in bed in the dark, putting her stories together sentence by sentence and memorizing them as an actor might memorize the "sides" of a considerable part. The act of finally setting a story down on paper amounted to a delicious reward, which, like a child with a sweet, she would delay indulging herself in for as long as possible. Benson was so prolific that she was obliged to write under two names—her own and a pseudonym, Esther Everts. As a rule, the Bensons appeared in the front of the book, the Everts in the back. How curious! For though writers know better, sheer abundance always impresses them. In O'Hara's case, we who knew him were impressed not only by the abundance of his work but also by the exceptionally high quality it attained in his youth and early middle years—years of the short stories collected under the titles of *Files on Parade*, *Pipe Night* and *Hellbox*.

O'Hara was the best of us, and he knew it, and this made him impatient for fame and academic recognition. He received fewer honours than most of his colleagues and he wanted them more. Not a single honorary degree came to him from any university. Having been instrumental in arranging for Yale to grant an honorary degree to Sinclair Lewis, for many years I championed O'Hara's cause at Yale, always in vain. He received the National Book Award in 1955, for *Ten North Frederick*, and was long overdue. In the same year, he was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters; the election was

known to be a consequence of persistent campaigning on his part. For all his rancorous air of superiority, he could truckle when he had to. In 1961, finding that he was not among those nominated to receive the Gold Medal of the Institute, he resigned. Some years later, the Institute placated him with an Award of Merit medal, which it was able to do because the award goes by tradition only to people who are not members of the Institute. Having consented to be re-elected to the Institute, he hinted that he stood ready to be invited into the National Academy of Arts and Letters, the smaller and more august body that is drawn from members of the Institute. The invitation never came.

O'Hara's correspondence with officers of the Institute is curious; it consists in large part of requests for rosettes to wear in his lapel. It appears that he was crazy about rosettes. He expected to be given a rosette to wear as a representation of his Award of Merit and was vociferously disappointed to discover that no such rosette existed. When the award was presented to him, he wept, and the tears were bitter as well as grateful. He had had to promote himself with such vigour before his inferiors, and he had had to wait such a long time in the anterooms of the Establishment before its leaders had deigned to acknowledge his presence. He disliked them and admired them and he would take vengeance upon them in his work.

The slight by the academics was genuine, but those many fancied slights he suffered—they were what made it hard to stay friends with him for long. My first estrangement from him was a result of a pleasant, harmless evening on the town; he and his wife, Belle, and Anne and I, having had dinner at "21", had returned to the O'Haras' small apartment on the Upper East Side for a nightcap. In those days O'Hara was a heavy drinker and he had been pegging away all evening at a succession of Scotches. He had also been lecturing me on how I ought to manage my financial affairs. All my life, my failure to take money seriously had induced others to feel alarm on my behalf. If, on earlier occasions, Ross had been fatherly on the subject, O'Hara was now being big-brotherly. Not that he had yet proved any wiser about money than Ross, for he told me that all Belle and he had in the world at that moment was the jewelry he had given her. His big money-making period was still in the future, but plainly he intended to be ready for it when it came. And so he was: how good a head he had for business is indicated by the fact that when he died he was said to be a millionaire several times over. Indeed, at the time of his death a newspaper story claimed that his publishers were withholding at his request something like a million dollars in royalties, which for reasons of income tax he presumably felt reluctant to take possession of.

His lecture about money fell upon deaf ears, though of course I enjoyed being worried over. Having finished our nightcaps, Anne and I were ready to say goodbye. O'Hara got, unsteadily to his feet, protesting that he had one last treat in store for us. He disappeared into the bedroom, where he remained for some 20 minutes. When he emerged, he was utterly transformed. He had taken off his ordinary clothes and decked himself out in a cowboy outfit of incomparable Reno richness. He was all leather and steel and silk: a bedazzling one-man complicity of boots, spurs, chaps, holsters, and guns with nickelled butt. Above the chaps came a checked shirt and a

scarf knotted about the neck, and above the big, boozy face floated a surpassingly broad, high-crowned, creamy sombrero. O'Hara stood in the living room doorway, weaving from side to side and evidently taking great satisfaction in his appearance. We realized afterwards that he had counted on us to admire him as an embodiment of the Old West, but alas! he seemed merely a comic apparition, coming no closer to reality than his friends the Kriendlers, at "21", came with their indiscriminate litter of Remingtons, Anne and I burst out laughing. O'Hara was incredulous. He saw nothing in his person to laugh about. His cheeks flushed. He was too angry to speak. As the gentle Belle, a born pacifier, flustered about in apprehension of the storm about to break, we said our farewells and hurried off to our house on a nearby Seventy-eighth street.

O'Hara was able to forgive that transgression, but my next proved unforgivable. In 1949, he published a novel called *A Rage to Live*, and I reviewed it in *The New Yorker*. By then I had written a good many book reviews and had grown accustomed to separating the author of a work from the work. For a number of reasons, my unfavourable review of O'Hara's novel had consequences far beyond those that most unfavourable reviews elicit. Over a quarter of a century later, the review strikes me as sound—sound in what I singled out to praise in O'Hara and sound in what I condemned. The novel itself has left little mark in literary history, though students of O'Hara will always have to deal with it as a turning point in his career. My review correctly predicted that the novel would become an immense best-seller, but no amount of public approbation could lessen O'Hara's fury over what he considered an act of perfidy on my part. I wasn't simply a reviewer; I was his friend.



James Thurber: never happier than when he could cause old friends to fall out.

around town saying that if he ever caught sight of me he would knock my block off—that fate and worse fates, in worse English. Explanations and apologies at such a moment would have seemed self-serving: a mere craven desire to save my skin. I made up my mind that when the inevitable encounter came, since I was a good many years younger than O'Hara and in much better physical condition, I would do my best to knock his block off. In my mind's eye, I saw the big, fleshy head rolling unarrested along the sidewalk, on the grey face a look of astonishment and dismay.

The supposed sanguinary moment of truth arrived one evening at "21", where the Gills and the Gardner Botsfords had been having dinner. As we walked into the front hall to pick up our gear at the coat room, I saw O'Hara standing there with a couple of friends. He had been drinking, but then, he was always drinking in those days, and, besides, I had been drinking, too. It appeared to be a fine time to challenge him to put up or shut up. I walked across the room to him and said: "Well, John, here I am. What are you going to do about it?" He stared at me dully, his lips working. As last things began to emerge from his lips a stream of vituperation. The words were conventionally scatological and were spoken with surprisingly little feeling, and when they began to peter out I said in a jeering tone: "Is that the best you can do?" Then I waited for him to take a swing at me. Fear conquered had done its work and adrenalin was racing through me like the headiest ice-cold champagne. O'Hara went on muttering imprecations in the way of the classic sullen bar-room bully. I shrugged and turned away.

Out on Fifty-second Street, Borsford said, "That was a close call." In the vain glory of my moral victory, I said, "Not close enough." Subsequently, O'Hara felt obliged to twist the matter of my adverse book review into something it hadn't been—the occasion for his breaking off relations with the magazine. So often and so eagerly did he and Cerf and other publishing friends repeat the false story that it soon made its way into history. The reason O'Hara pretended that I was to blame for the break was that the real reason was a comparatively sordid one, having to do with money, instead of with wounded pride. As the files of the magazine can testify, Ross and O'Hara had long had a difficult relationship, in part because of O'Hara's persistent—and laudable—demands for a better system of payments to contributors. Sometimes he and Ross would be on speaking terms and sometimes not. During the Second World War, for example, O'Hara arranged to be sent abroad as a war correspondent for *Liberty*. He had some properly bespoke uniforms run up for him and was making one of a series of tearful farewell appearances at "21" when he spotted Ross across the room. There was bad blood between them at the time. On the chance that he might be about to die a hero's death in the South Pacific—actually, he spent only a few weeks there and filed a single story—O'Hara sentimentally decided to make it up with Ross. He went over to him, held out his hand, and suggested that they let bygones be bygones. "Go to Hell, O'Hara," Ross said and refused to shake hands.

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THE ARTS

Secombe's straight stage debut

Harry Secombe is not so much an entertainer as an industry: this autumn, for example, quite apart from making his legitimate stage debut at the age of 54 he's publishing an anthology of his journalism (*Goose for Lunch*, Michael Joseph) and the paperback of his first novel *Twice Brightly* (hilarious—Prince Charles) as well as working on a second, *Welsh Fargo*, which will relate the adventures of Dan Fargo who drove a bus in Wales during the Depression and managed to get mixed up with a gang of local heavies known inevitably as the Taffia. When the BBC film *Welsh Fargo*, which they fully intend to do just as soon as Secombe has worked out to end it, Ronnie Barker will be playing the Taffia leader.

But to get back to the theatre, next Wednesday, at the Prince of Wales, Secombe opens in *The Plumber's Progress*, a play with music (by Schubert and Brahms, no less) which Open Space and Edinburgh Traverse theatre-goers may remember seeing last year—though without Secombe—as *Schippel*. Written before the First War by Carl Sternheim, a German playwright, it has been known, indeed almost solely known, in this country as the author of *The Mask of Virtue*, the play which made Vivien Leigh's name just 40 years ago. *Schippel* was adapted by the resident playwright, Cecil Taylor. There it was seen last year by Jimmy Grafton, who has been Secombe's friend (and later agent) ever since the days when he ran a pub in Victoria, called Grafton's, at which four unsuccessful young comedians called Secombe, Sellers, Milligan and Benning began gathering in the late 1940s to discuss an improbable radio series called *The Goon Show*. Seeing *Schippel* a quarter of a century later, and knowing that Secombe was now in search of a straight play, Grafton took him to it when it reached the Open Space.

"I knew at once that it was what I wanted to do: after all, it's a very funny play, it's got a marvellous plot, and so what ever I manage to bring to it is a kind of bonus."

It says more than a little for the persuasive powers of Grafton and Secombe that they have persuaded the audience will be a little unsure what to expect, one with a small cast and just one piano, but I think they'll like it. Critics? Of course I worry about what they'll say: only a fool wouldn't. Mind you, there isn't much that hasn't already been

good mainstream theatrical investment, and last week in Manchester the play took just over £7,000 at five performances.

Mind you, it wasn't easy: the Opera House, there had been dark for four months and on the first night all you could see was dust. Still, they seemed to like the play though we found out that people thought *Schippel* was an airport so it's now called *The Plumber's Progress* and the only person who's hated it so far was an old lady in Manchester who said she hadn't paid out good money to hear Harry Secombe say bollocks in public.

Set in Germany, in 1913, *The Plumber's Progress* is about a quarter of class-conscious master-builders who, when their senior dies, are forced to recruit a plumber against their better social instincts.

It's not the kind of play you can alter four months and far I'm resisting all temptations to add it; after all, in a cast of seven it simply isn't fair to the others. Mind you, the Prince of Wales is a big theatre for a small play, but I'm used to space after *Drury Lane*: it wasn't as though I saw that theatre full so very often."

Ruling out the variety and club appearances, Secombe has only ever played the West End twice: once in the most successful British musical of the 1960s (*Pickwick*) and once in the most disastrous (*The Four Musketeers*, which ran on his name alone for fourteen months at the Lane but still managed to lose a reputed £50,000).

"That was a terrible experience: we had to abandon most of the show and I used to make it up from night to night. One matinee some drunks started barracking: 'Hush! I told them, 'there are people up here on stage trying to get some sleep. The playwright's first name is Cecil'."

But Secombe is approaching *The Plumber's Progress* with considerably more reverence: "It's time I tried something more difficult and this is an ideal vehicle or in my case, an ideal theatre."

Secombe is less inclined towards adventure; for 21 years now he has lived in the same house on the same bus route in East Cheam: "Harry's Corner, they call it, and when the bus stops, the conductor does a quick chorus of *If I Ruled the World*. Still, I like it; I'm not one of those changing things all the time—Peter and Spike were the restlessness ones, but they always knew where to find me. My wife's lasted me 28 years. Yet in the end, you know, it's all a matter of luck: I only went into the army in 1939 because all the other kids in my office in Cardiff volunteered and I knew if I didn't I'd be left to



do all the bloody work. So in the army I met Milligan and that's where the comedy all started. I've not been quite so lucky with films, though: the only one I ever started alone in was called *Dary and that's* doing fine in Afghanistan where they still allow audiences to shoot at the screen."

Ambitions? "Not many left, now. I'd like to do *The Good Soldier Schweik* if somebody asked me, and I'd like to get *Welsh Fargo* finished, though maybe if the play does all right I'll have some daytime for that. The theatre suits me very well, you know: around eight o'clock at night I feel like doing a show, whereas if you're in the clubs the only guy around at that time is the waiter laying tables."

Disasters? "One or two: like when I did a comic shav- ing act just after the war and they took me off the bill at Bolton on the Monday because the manager said he wasn't having me shave in his bloody time. But I've given up worry- ing about failure; you just have to keep going and hope they'll remember to come and see you. Anyway, when for 25 years has built a career on such tenuous foundations as a high-pitched giggle, a rasp- berry and a sprinkling of top Cs needs all the friends he can get."

Sheridan Morley

Coward as the moralist

The Vortex
Greenwich

Irving Wardle

A boy's face stares out from the cover of the Greenwich programme. There is a wart on the nose, the complexion seems pitted with acne, and the mouth hangs open foolishly revealing two rabbit teeth. It is not a flattering portrait, but its intensity of feeling leaps off the page. Such was the face of Noel Coward as he appeared in *The Vortex* in 1924.

This is the play which prompts the new text-book comparison between Coward and John Osborne, and it would take an invincibly closed mind to write off *The Vortex* as a brittle entertainment. Coward always was a moralist, but in this play he took absolutely no notice of disfigurement.

Here are the post-war smart set, as he saw them, swirling in "a vortex of beastliness". It is all vanity and lies and cold- hearts, from the metallic gaiety of the flappers to the bogus passions of writers like Bruce, they part impaled by Coward on a murderous character description. You might compare the piece to

Vile Bodies except that when it comes to the point Coward abandons comedy and moves into melodrama with an unfaked passion that still holds the stage. It brought a lump to my throat anyway.

Like other writers of the time, Coward was trying to create a modern hero: and like Huxley and Ronald Mackenzie (not to mention Joyce) he produced a Hamlet variant, otherwise described by Cyril Connolly as "the fable of the clever, young man, and the dirty deal." Young Nick, starved of attention by a mother interested only in her own powers of attraction, returns from doing artistic sketches in Paris, and it would take an invincibly closed mind to write off *The Vortex* as a brittle entertainment. Coward always was a moralist, but in this play he took absolutely no notice of disfigurement.

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We watch the elegant and amusing set-up slowly coming apart, and finally torn to shreds by a ghastly house party, at which point the comedy dis- solves into a *Knightsbridge* rewrite of the Elsinore play and closes scenes.

All this is very tricky for a director 50 years later, as the action has gone into double focus. James Roose-Evans, for a start, has banished the Coward voice from his stage but left the sheer element of diversion.

David William, Gabrielle Drake and others in the support parts give the guests their full due in poise and intelligence while keeping their strict prisoners of their time. Comedy is nowhere blurred by indictments to come: Joyce Grant as a society chanteuse, is allowed to camp up a bit of Verdi with a skill well beyond the character's meagre powers.

The central partnership lies right outside this style. Vivien Merchant, as the mother, gives so exposed a performance as to be almost painful to watch. From her first gushing artificialities, the incipient hysteria and panic come flooding across. She achieves her victories by weakness and clinging rather than by charm. All very true, but it leaves the character defenceless.

Timothy Dalton grades his hysteria more deliberately and achieves moments of really impressive weight at the climax. Until then, the performance could do with more volatility: its changes of mood should take you by surprise instead of coming as sluggish delayed reactions. And are there no young actors these days who can play the piano? Peter Rice's pastel-shaded pillars aptly set the play in an environment of broken rainbows.

Whether the prime attraction of the show is its spirit of Dunkirk or its chance to see telly stars in the flesh, I am not sure. Certainly, a first-time audience of *Capitain Mainwaring's* men was greeted with great fervour last night, and when they rose to their feet, slowly marching down some steps to prove that they were not figures in a glass and celluloid applause was redoubled.

Having arrived at the foot- lights, of course, they had to do something; and while the subse- quent two hours were not without their delights, Jimmy Perry's and David Croft's efforts to make a pile of telly into a gallon pot of theatre demon- strated what must be described as the dramaturgy of despera- tion.

Afraid that their central situation would not sustain a non-telly British defence, the producers have given us the "awkward squad" formula. Between these are offered some fragments suggesting that the professional German attack was less sane or competent than the amateur British defence, and some songs, including "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", surprisingly but beautifully characterized by John Le Mesurier.

The second act, leading pain- lessly to the cessation of hostilities and disbanding of the Home Guard, offers a variety show, supposedly heard via portable wireless by the Germans. That features Bill Pertwee's Mic- hael and Arthur Lowe's Robin Wilton and Bud Flanagan. As the latter, he was accompanied last night, first by the Chesney Allen of Mr Le Mesurier, then, for a chorus of "Home Town", by your actual Chesney Allen. Cor!

The sketches are beautifully worked out, though tending to halt with arbitrary suddenness. The means by which they are sustained are near invisible: Mr Le Mesurier's Wilton is, after all, a prolonged disap- pointing act, and Clive Dunn's Jones is a running gag more than a character. There remains Ian Lavender's Pike, a resourceful, even athletic, mother's boy—and Mr Lowe's Mainwaring, a piece of acting so true that its occa- sional flashes of vulgarity, such as the curtsy he bows to a WVS lady in the choir, are like brandy flames upon a delectable plum pudding.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yes- terday's later editions.

Words did not match the drama

Days of Hope
BBC 1

Derek Parker

The noise of political thorns cracking under a pot has distracted a good many people from listening closely to the last two plays only such performances as Paul Copley's (a tense, nervy, wiry young Communist) spasmodically in- jected a physical element into the endless discussions between the miners and the TUC, the TUC and the Government. The dialogue continued to sound totally real—but what was actually said often failed to match in drama the situation in which the words were spoken—another accurate-reflection of life, but one which is a liability in drama, and which the writer is normally careful to correct.

In such a context there can be no "fine writing" (not that Mr Allen is that kind of writer); the stylistic need for a peroration here or a rhetorical flourish in this series is sublimated into short, rather incoherent, mainly visual scenes which only partly succeeded in effect. (The platform rhetoric of the Labour leaders seemed at this distance unconvincing.) The dramatist as architect was defeated, certainly in such a lengthy piece.

Again, the political passion which opened Mr Allen's heart to the plight of the miners and their betrayal by their comrades, closed his mind to some extent to the arguments of the government. These properly presented could have opened

constructing his drama with as much craft as he would if he were writing a conventional dramatic work. But in the last two plays only such performances as Paul Copley's (a tense, nervy, wiry young Communist) spasmodically in- jected a physical element into the endless discussions between the miners and the TUC, the TUC and the Government. The dialogue continued to sound totally real—but what was actually said often failed to match in drama the situation in which the words were spoken—another accurate-reflection of life, but one which is a liability in drama, and which the writer is normally careful to correct.

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SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

Director: John Denton CBE. Tel: 01-928 3191. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays. Information: 01-928 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have already been made 01-928 3072. Postal applications must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sunday 5 Oct. 7.30 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORUS. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
LSD Ltd.

Monday 6 Oct. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
LSD Ltd.

Tuesday 7 Oct. 8 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
LSD Ltd.

Wednesday 8 Oct. 8 p.m.
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. James Baker (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
B.B.C. Ltd.

Thursday 9 Oct. 8 p.m.
NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Jean Bernard Pommier (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
N.P.O. Ltd.

Friday 10 Oct. 8 p.m.
AN EVENING WITH DIANE SOLOMON and supporting artists.
International Entertainment Ltd.

Saturday 11 Oct. 8 p.m.
VIENNA BOYS CHOIR. Anton Mayr (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
L.P.O. Ltd.

Tuesday 14 Oct. 8 p.m.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
RPO Ltd.

Wednesday 15 Oct. 8 p.m.
FERNANDO GERMAIN. Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
R.F.H.

Thursday 16 Oct. 8 p.m.
NEW PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
N.P.S. Ltd.

Friday 17 Oct. 8 p.m.
NEW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
N.P.O. Ltd.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Today 4 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
LONDON CHORALE. Ray Wicks (conductor). Praetorius. Consort. Chorus. Music written for Shakespeare. Music by Praetorius, including: *Arise, O Jerusalem*, *Wondrous Love*, *Wondrous Love*, *Wondrous Love*.
London Choral Society.

Monday 5 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
NEW PAUL WHITEMAN ORCHESTRA. Alan Cohen (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
Park Lane Group.

Tuesday 6 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
BEAUX ARTS TRIO. Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
London Artists/Thos & Thos.

Wednesday 7 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
MILSTER ORCHESTRA. Alan Cohen (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
Rediffusion Company of British Music.

Thursday 8 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
HOWARD SHELLEY. Piano Recital. Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
Thos & Thos.

Friday 9 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
LONDON BACH ORCHESTRA. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
L.B.O.

Saturday 10 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
ROSA MUNDI. Andris Piete (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
Opera House.

Sunday 11 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
BEAUX ARTS TRIO. Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
London Artists/Thos & Thos.

Monday 12 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
RICHARD HICKOX ORCHESTRA. Richard Hickox (conductor). Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
Apollo Society.

Tuesday 13 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
NKHIL BANERJEE (sitar) ANDINO CHATTERJEE (tabla).
An evening of North Indian music.
Basil Douglas Ltd.

Wednesday 14 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
BEAUX ARTS TRIO. Robert Tear (tenor), Myra Hess (piano), John Loughran (violin), John Loughran (viola), John Loughran (cello), John Loughran (double bass), John Loughran (harp), John Loughran (timpani), John Loughran (trumpet), John Loughran (trombone), John Loughran (baritone), John Loughran (bass), John Loughran (chorus).
London Artists/Thos & Thos.

Thursday 15 Oct. 7.45 p.m.
ROMEO & JULIET. (A) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (B) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (C) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (D) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (E) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (F) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (G) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (H) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (I) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (J) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (K) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (L) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (M) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (N) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (O) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (P) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. (Q) Colour film of the ballet with music by Prokofiev. 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Gardening

A beanfeast—with no strings attached



A fine crop of beans—these are in Roy Hay's own garden.

A great many readers were kind enough to write to me and tell of their experiences with runner beans. As I rather expected many of the experiences cancelled each other out—some people have splendid crops in sheltered spots others on very exposed windy sites. Some who had fine crops had sprayed with water every evening, others had not. All but one reader reported success with the white flowered variety Fry. Those who grew it were delighted with it as they had hardly dared to hope that it was stringless. A few readers reported success with both white and red beans but many more fared well with the white beans and badly with the red varieties. Many readers also had fine crops on the apricot pink flowered variety Suttons Sunset. Many reported success with climbing French beans, nobody reported failure.

Sparrows were blamed in many cases and several readers confirm that these voracious birds take off for the country as soon as harvesting starts. The behaviour of bees is reported by a number of correspondents—many small hive bees have been observed to puncture the base of the flower presumably to get at the nectar instead of entering the flower in the normal way—thus falling in their duty of pollinating the flowers.

Apparently bumble bees are needed for this job as they have tongues long enough to reach down into the flower for the nectar and in doing so they pollinate the flowers. In some areas bumble bees were scarce. In general, cropping was poor on the red flowered beans early in the season but picked up in August. Later sowings did better than the earliest plants. This I think may have been due to the cold weather at the end of May and early June, followed immediately by drought conditions. The young plants probably did not make a very good root system and were unable to draw up enough water to sustain the growth. Hence they shed the load by dropping the buds.

Even if the plants had made a reasonably good root system and even if there was always plenty of water at the roots, it is conceivable that in the abnormally hot periods, the plants were transpiring moisture at an enormous rate during the hottest part of the day. The plants, which after all are the tallest vegetable we grow, may simply not have been able physically to draw up enough water to prevent flagging and bud drop. Another suggestion is that night flying insects can see white flowers more readily at dusk and around dawn than red flowers and may be helping considerably with the pollination. It has also been suggested that white bean flowers have a stronger scent than red ones—perhaps a scent that insects can perceive but we do not. It is well known that some insects have an amazingly powerful sense of smell—even to the extent of recognizing scents at a great distance and which we would not be able to pick up. The only tentative conclusions I can offer are to water early and regularly in dry spells. Do not sow or plant too early and second and reserve batch in case the first lot run into a cold spell. Also try the white flowered runners and double bank with some climbing French beans. It is interesting that for most people it appears that red roses are the most popular—at least as far as hybrid tea roses are concerned. It is even more interesting and surprising that in an analysis of orders placed this year, B. Harkness & Co., The Rose Gardens, Hinchin, Hertfordshire, the first three hybrid teas out of the 10 most popular are not only red but they are the same varieties as the first three in last year's and in the same order as last year. Indeed the fourth variety, Elizabeth Harkness, which was also fourth choice last year. The red favourites are Alexander, bright ver-

Jobs for October

Sweep the worm casts off the lawns to prevent them being trodden into the turf or attached flat by the mower. Apply an organic law fertiliser specially compounded for autumn use. Deal with moss now by applying a moss killer.

● Lift gladioli corms and hang up to dry in an airy frost free place. Lift tuberous begonias, place in a frost free place and allow stems to die back gradually. Lift geraniums and fuchsias, pot them and place in the greenhouse.

● As soon as dahlias are frosted cut the stems down to one foot, lift the tubers and place upside down for 10 days in a frost free place. Then store in boxes with the tubers covered with moist peat. Do not cover the crown—the spot where the tubers join the stem.

● When they have finished flowering cut down outdoor chrysanthemums, lift them, wash off the soil and place them in boxes; cover the roots with fresh moist soil and keep in a frame or greenhouse.

● Cut down herbaceous plants that have finished flowering.

● Plant bulbs in pots or bowls. Plant daffodils and small bulbs outdoors. Tulips may be left until November. Plant wallflowers, forget-me-nots, sweet williams and the like in October. Finish pruning and tying climbing and rambling roses.

● Clear away all spent vegetable crops. Burn any diseased material. Clean, dry and store canes and stakes in a dry place.

● Take wooden garden furniture under cover or if this is not possible cover seats or tables with plastic sheeting, making sure it goes under the chair or table legs to keep them from contact with wet ground.

● Pick and store apples.

● Finish pruning blackcurrants and raspberries if not already done.

● Dig over ground as it becomes empty, especially if it is heavy clay leave it rough for the weather to break down.

● As vegetables are likely to cost even more next year, especially in the spring, it would be worth planting some more spring cabbage, say one foot apart with the idea of using them young as spring greens. But do it at once.

Roy Hay

Chess

The vertical move

The Elo rating system, which for some time now, has been officially recognized by the World Chess Federation as a method of differentiating and classifying the strength of players internationally is brought out at regular intervals. On its appearance strong masters turn pale and weak masters to a nasty grey colour. Rarely, if ever, have I heard a master say he is satisfied with his Elo rating, and most people seem to regard it as a further sign of sadistic cruelty on the part of chess organizers.

It would therefore surprise them to know that Professor Elo, who, I am happy to say, has been a friend of mine for a long time, is the mildest mannered of men with a human understanding of the problems that beset the chess-master and a natural sympathy for all those who love chess from the grand-master right down to the novice.

I met him again at last week's meeting of the Qualification Committee of the World Chess Federation which was held at Oosterbeek, a pleasant little village in Holland not far from Arnhem. He was the secretary of the committee and during the intervals between our awarding (or declining as the case might be) titles to the world's best players we held much conversation.

He told me that in his opinion we were at least seeing the beginning of a phase in English chess which he had prophesied to the late Sir Richard Clarke about 10 years ago. At long last it looked as though we would be going to have some grandmasters and this was due, not so much to chess, as to his theory of the vertical movement of population.

He illustrated this idea by a little parable. A farmer had two potato fields, the one stony and unprofitable, and the other of very fertile ground. From the stony field he got a crop of small, thick-skinned potatoes and from the fertile field he had large beautiful potatoes. But as time went on the potatoes in the fertile field grew as small as those in the stony one. So one year he sowed the fertile field with potatoes from the stony ground and the result was huge potatoes, large enough to supply that quarter of the population.

This story, without the hypothetical reference to Blackpool, and without knowing too from which source he had taken it,

Professor Elo used to illustrate that fruitful leaving of intellectual and artistic life that occurs when one layer of society surges upwards to penetrate and make technical advance. So his idea was that, as a result of a process starting in all probability after the First World War, England in about 20 years from now might rejoice in some 10 or 15 grandmasters and that we should be witnessing the appearance of the first crop of this rare vegetable in the course of the next few years.

How, had it worked in Russia? Well, chess being an urban game, the real flowering of Russian chess had come after the population had left the country for the towns. This too would apply to such countries as Yugoslavia and Hungary, both of which had had the somewhat dubious advantage of having been invaded, occupied and fought over by a sort of immense cocktail of warring races in the last 500 years.

The reverse was also true. In such countries as France and Ireland which were a desert as far as chess masters and grandmasters were concerned, the population had become so stratified into permanent layers as to prevent any levelling whatsoever. Another striking case was that of Spain which, despite the constant holding of great international tournaments, had produced precious few masters and, with the possible half-exception of Pomar, no grandmaster since the time of Ruy Lopez about four hundred years ago.

It will be observed that Professor Elo's theory has the elastic virtue of fitting in with any set of facts or figures and perhaps I will return to it in future articles. Meanwhile here is a game that was played at Mondria de Morilles this year between two of the grandmasters belonging to the population levelling to which I have referred.

White: L. Polugalevsky (USSR) Black: L. Szabo (Hungary) Robust defence.

1. Kf3 Bg5 2. Bg2 Bxg2 3. Bxg2 Bg5 4. Bg2 Bxg2 5. Bxg2 Bg5 6. Bg2 Bxg2 7. Bxg2 Bg5 8. Bg2 Bxg2 9. Bxg2 Bg5 10. Bg2 Bxg2 11. Bxg2 Bg5 12. Bg2 Bxg2 13. Bxg2 Bg5 14. Bg2 Bxg2 15. Bxg2 Bg5 16. Bg2 Bxg2 17. Bxg2 Bg5 18. Bg2 Bxg2 19. Bxg2 Bg5 20. Bg2 Bxg2 21. Bxg2 Bg5 22. Bg2 Bxg2 23. Bxg2 Bg5 24. Bg2 Bxg2 25. Bxg2 Bg5 26. Bg2 Bxg2 27. Bxg2 Bg5 28. Bg2 Bxg2 29. Bxg2 Bg5 30. Bg2 Bxg2 31. Bxg2 Bg5 32. Bg2 Bxg2 33. Bxg2 Bg5 34. Bg2 Bxg2 35. Bxg2 Bg5 36. Bg2 Bxg2 37. Bxg2 Bg5 38. Bg2 Bxg2 39. Bxg2 Bg5 40. Bg2 Bxg2 41. Bxg2 Bg5 42. Bg2 Bxg2 43. Bxg2 Bg5 44. Bg2 Bxg2 45. Bxg2 Bg5 46. Bg2 Bxg2 47. Bxg2 Bg5 48. Bg2 Bxg2 49. Bxg2 Bg5 50. Bg2 Bxg2 51. Bxg2 Bg5 52. Bg2 Bxg2 53. Bxg2 Bg5 54. Bg2 Bxg2 55. Bxg2 Bg5 56. Bg2 Bxg2 57. Bxg2 Bg5 58. Bg2 Bxg2 59. Bxg2 Bg5 60. Bg2 Bxg2 61. Bxg2 Bg5 62. Bg2 Bxg2 63. Bxg2 Bg5 64. Bg2 Bxg2 65. Bxg2 Bg5 66. Bg2 Bxg2 67. Bxg2 Bg5 68. Bg2 Bxg2 69. Bxg2 Bg5 70. Bg2 Bxg2 71. Bxg2 Bg5 72. Bg2 Bxg2 73. Bxg2 Bg5 74. Bg2 Bxg2 75. Bxg2 Bg5 76. Bg2 Bxg2 77. Bxg2 Bg5 78. 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George Hutchinson

Where have all the Tories' romantic heroes gone?

Barring a sudden decision to alter the arrangements, the stirring strains of *Land of Hope and Glory* will not be heard as Mrs Thatcher joins the platform at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on Friday morning to address the seventh and final session of the Conservative conference—her first conference as leader of the party and the most testing occasion thus far.

Those noble, heart-lifting notes were Churchill's accompaniment, incomparably moving as he appeared before his followers at their annual mass rally, bringing a tear to many an eye besides his own. With the passing of that great spirit a tradition passed, too.

There were thoughts of reviving it next week, but the feeling on high is that for all the romantic grandeur of the music, the words, as a reflection of imperial power long since lost, are inappropriate today. One can understand the reasoning—and still regret it.

The knowledge that *Land of Hope and Glory* has again been under consideration within the setting of the Conservative leadership is, however, a welcome intimation of Mrs Thatcher's realization that politics are as much an affair of the heart as

the head. It suggests an aspect of her character hitherto concealed.

She may not be a born romantic (I am not yet sure), but if she can recognize politics as a romantic art—the art of the possible, as Bismarck and Butler had it—she is not without some of the imaginative insight that distinguishes true leadership from mere management.

The Tory romantics are few in number nowadays, at any level: Lord Hailsham, of course, Mr Norman St John Stevas, Mr Whitelaw (but in a suppressed sort of way, as if he were subduing an inner exuberance), Mr Angus Maude, Mr Ennoch Powell is another (romantics are naturally wayward), and we might add Mr John Peyton, Mr Hugh Fraser, Mr Rhodes Boyson and Mr Julian Hare, each in his own mould. One or two of the younger MPs may still produce a similar glow, and the Bow Group offers a little promise, but wherever you look in the Tory ranks there are not many who hold out much hope. As for another Iain Macleod, there is not a single one in sight; but then Iain was a very rare figure indeed, among whose devoted

disciples we must include Mr Ian Gilmour and Mr Nicholas Scott.

The depressing reality is that the old Tory romantics (who were often distinctly Whiggish and invariably lettered) have largely given place to what may be described, in contrast, as a humdrum managerial class lacking flair, imagination or the slightest capacity to inspire. Sad to say, many are lacking in knowledge as well as in the humane, humane commercial character. They are too ordinary, so to speak.

For my part, I prefer to be governed by people who are out of the ordinary—and so, I judge, do most of our countrymen, whatever their political leanings or allegiance may be.

Political leadership may rightly be regarded as one of the higher forms of human endeavour: it cannot be discharged, let alone perfected, by the man next door. At its best (which is what most of us want, I assume) it calls for qualities seldom found in even the most successful tradesmen.

Stanley Baldwin was a tradesman, you may say. So he was—but he was much else besides, and his place is secure in the gallery of political

For my part, I prefer to be governed by people who are out of the ordinary—and so, I judge, do most of our countrymen, whatever their political leanings or allegiance may be.

romantics. Mr Macmillan was (and remains) a tradesman in some sense; but again he was (and remains) much more than that. He, too, is secure among the romantic romantics.

In dismal truth, the Conservative Party has been overwhelmed by mediocrity in recent years. All too many of its representatives in Parliament, however worthy, are dull dogs of little interest to

anyone but themselves. A decline in electoral fortunes was only to be expected as a result. To livelier minds, the party had become boring. Conscientious, well-intentioned, moderate, mildly reformist and constructive, it was no longer exciting.

If you say that we can do without further excitement—there is quite enough already—you are wrong. Political parties die when they cease to excite interest. Mrs Thatcher knows this.

By her own example (as well as the dramatic circumstances of her election to the leadership) she has already generalised fresh interest in language with real meaning, not minding words. She is definite, not waffling. You may not agree with her, but at least she tells you her mind.

Moreover she has opened up—she has freed the list of aspiring parliamentary candidates, so that the standardized conformist nonentity will find increasing competition from more independent and interesting contenders. Overall, she is liberating her party from the kind of domination that Mr Heath was determined to impose.

So far from dying under Mrs Thatcher, the Tories—unless they have lost their old sentiments of loyalty to their appointed leader and are neurotically bent on self-destruction—can be expected to recover and prosper. She has invigorating qualities, and (as I think) destiny has propelled her into the leadership just as the national tide, affected by harsh economic reality and political extremism alike, is probably turning in favour of

an outlook similar to her own, which seems to embrace many of the innermost instincts of the reasonable, modest, tolerant, self-respecting, law-abiding, hard-working people who make up the overwhelming mass of the country. Self-reliance, a sense of individual responsibility, a renunciation of extremes—these sentiments of Mrs Thatcher's may catch a growing mood.

Unless I am much mistaken, a change is taking place, provoked in good part by the general disease for revolutionary attitudes and behaviour; a change away from undue political permissiveness or licence and towards a seemlier, more orderly code, but well removed from meek compliance with authority.

This I believe to be true of the nation at large, irrespective of party preference; and it is undoubtedly true of most Conservative supporters, who are moving (if you like to express it in these terms) to the right of centre rather than the left. Nor is this to be wondered at, given our national temperament, and the influence of Mrs Thatcher's temperament—which are working to undermine our established institutions. These are the destructive forces that Mr

Wilson was denouncing this week. What they have succeeded in doing is to produce a predictable reaction against their own beliefs (not that they themselves could have been expected to foresee that, for they have no natural affinity with most of their contemporaries). In short, the country is more to the right than it was a year or two ago.

We are the first of the great democracies in the modern world; and we are much more besides. As I have argued in these columns before, a nation with assets like ours, spiritual as well as material, cannot be doomed to defeat and ruin except by the grossest ineptitude (or worse) on the part of its political leaders. I like to think that Mrs Thatcher has this to have been Mrs Thatcher's essential message in North America, where she spoke of a strategy for national recovery, as no doubt she will in Blackpool next week.

What is called for in British politics today is a quality of heroism as well as romance. We shall soon be better able to measure Mrs Thatcher's capacity. It may be said that she is already set apart as a person of high distinction. She may prove to be something more. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1975

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Why Russia turns a blind eye to the black market

Anyone who thinks that the Soviet Union economy is state-controlled should read the latest issue of *Survey*, an important journal of east-west studies published by the Oxford University Press. In it Dimitri K. Simas writes about the "parallel market" in the Soviet Union, a vast area of private enterprise which he reckons accumulates billions of roubles a year, involves most of the Soviet population and creates a situation in which "virtually everyone who holds a managerial position in the Soviet retail trade breaks the law almost daily".

This is not just the black market which everyone knows about. If Mr Simas is right it is something much bigger, a market of real economic significance which plays a vital role in the functioning of the system. The problem is that it cannot be measured so western economists tend to leave it out of account.

Even Mr Simas has few hard facts, although he quotes frequently from the Soviet press, which is often frank on the subject. But he does have the advantage of knowing the system from the inside. Until he came to the west relatively recently he was on the staff of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations in Moscow.

The parallel market, he says, not only offers superior goods and services to citizens rich enough to pay for them but is also used by government firms, agencies and farms to obtain equipment or spare parts necessary for fulfilling plans.

The main financial beneficiaries are repair men, retail tradesmen, doctors and teachers who give private tuition. According to the *Literary Gazette* the occupants of new apartments in Moscow paid in one year 10 million roubles to private tradesmen for additional improvements to their apartments. A newspaper reported that 85 per cent of new students at Moscow University's department of Mathematics had used private tutors to prepare themselves for admission. Payment for private medical care is common.

The elite does not need the parallel market quite as much as other people because it enjoys a range of special privileges, such as access to special shops and special clinics. But according to Mr Simas, anyone who owns a car has to get spare parts on the parallel market, and in 1972-73 more than a third of car owners drove

on petrol from the same source. More significant are the pressures on low and middle-level managers, most of whom, according to Mr Simas, are in one way or another involved in the parallel market. The chairman of a collective farm convicted of buying stolen property was quoted by the *Literary Gazette* as having asked desperately whether it was a greater crime to pay thousands of roubles to thieves or to lose a harvest. This type of dilemma faces many managers.

Mr Simas tells of a newly-trained young manager who took over a successful shop in Moscow and declared that there would be no violations of the law. The result was that his supplies of meat almost disappeared, truck drivers would not deliver, and the salesmen lost the income they expected from the bribes of favoured customers. After the staff complained to the district party committee the manager apparently accepted reality and normal service resumed.

The authorities have an awkward problem. On the one hand the parallel market is illegal, ideologically unacceptable, and disruptive in so far as it thrives on stolen goods, stolen time, and the allocation of resources by forces beyond the control of the state. On the other hand it fills gaps in the distribution system, helps managers to fulfil their plans, students to pass their exams, the sick to get better treatment, and consumers to get better goods. It could not be totally abolished without serious disruption of the economic system. Among other things, a quarter of the gross agricultural product is privately produced.

Official attitudes are therefore ambiguous. People are frequently arrested and their cases reported in some detail but in practice a great deal must be consciously tolerated. It is significant that newspapers often attack the malfunctioning of the system as strongly as they praise the virtues of the accused.

A few years ago in Poland, for instance, a shop came under suspicion because it always had a stock of spare parts for a certain make of car. Inquiries revealed that it bought them illegally from a factory at the factory. "Oh for the day," said a newspaper (I quote from memory) "when a shop which actually supplies the goods its customers require is praised instead of being investigated".

Richard Davy



Bette Davis at 67 (left) and at the height of her Hollywood fame: "I'm really 14 half the time."

Bette Davis: being bad was best

The clipped voice is instantly recognizable. The hair curls teasingly by her left ear. And, even beneath her spectacles, the big eyes dance as they always did, beneath long, upturned lashes.

In London, this week, Bette Davis revealed probably for the first time—that those lashes are false. More revealingly, she wanted no nonsense about her age. "I'm 67 and I've been in pictures for 45 years." Hearing that, a knowing crowd of years on some of her film contemporaries, one expected to say "and she looks it". But Bette Davis looks younger now than she did 10 years ago. She might also be three stone lighter than she was in *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane*, and her glasses make her look much prettier than did the eyepatch she wore in *The Envy*.

"I don't feel very young physically," she says. "But you must stay young mentally. I'm really 14 years old half the time." That was the age when she changed the spelling of her name from Betty to Bette and kept it that way because her

father said it was a passing fad. "It really should be pronounced Bett, but nobody ever does when they talk to me."

As for the secret of her apparent youth: "I suppose it's a combination of seldom being bored—together with a certain amount of dieting. You can't stay this thin and eat Italian food every night."

She is in London for a series of one-night stands of her one-woman show.

The first of these is at Croydon on Monday, when she will answer questions from the audience in between showing a parade of clips from her films. "In America everyone wanted to know whether she named the Oscar." Well did she? "I'll leave the answer for the audiences," she told me.

But she does not leave much to unanswered questions. Errol Flynn, for instance, was a liar. The things he said about her—made *Elizabeth* and *Exodus* together—in his book made her very angry, she said. She changed the spelling of her name from Betty to Bette and kept it that way because her

book, or rather cooperated in producing it, *Mother Goddam* (W. H. Allen) a biography by Whitney Stone, for which she supplies footnotes printed in red ink, takes its title from a description of her in *Time* magazine. "But," she says, "I think of myself as that from time to time."

She is modest about her successes. "I've never had the privilege of thinking about myself as the greatest of anything," she says. "If you do think that, you'll never do anything good again." As for being a legend? "How does one think of oneself as that? In a coffin, I guess."

Her favourite films, she says, were probably *Now, Voyager* and *Dark Victory*. But she admits she made mistakes. In 1938, Jack L. Warner told her "I've optioned a great book for you."

She apparently told him: "I bet it's a pip," and went off to London in a fit of pique at the way the contract system overworked her. The book was *Good With The Wind*. The part

she could have had—Scarlett O'Hara.

The one thing she doesn't want is for people to think that her new appearances are part of the nostalgia kick which I think is sad in a way. Sometimes, that glosses up the past and I think I could wish for more new things."

And then there is the permissive age in the cinema: "I wish we had half the privileges they have today and that they had half the restrictions we had. We would have had more honest films. But they go too far today and we didn't go far enough."

Today's actors and actresses would benefit by the old contract system, she thinks, because they would have much more work. But would they be remembered? Bette Davis certainly wishes she was known for some films that are now virtually forgotten. "I played more heroines than I'm remembered for. But the evil ones are more fascinating."

Michael Freedland

Finland's ripple on the surface of deep political waters

Political developments of some consequence can sometimes take place with scarcely a ripple on the surface. Last week's parliamentary elections in Finland may not have captured the headlines of Europe: to all appearances, an obscure political balance may simply have been left unchanged. But there are two points of wider interest in the latest events in Finland.

The first concerns the role of the Communist Party. From 1966 to 1971 Finland provided the unusual spectacle of a parliamentary democracy in which the Communists held office, or rather a share of the offices. They were a minority partner in the government, but they were not a minority partner in the country.

The circumstances were unusual as well as the fact. The Communists had been expelled from office in 1948 for packing the police with their own men. By 1966 they were again in the seat of political respectability that another experience of office, even office without real power, would give them. They therefore valued office at that time for its own sake.

Whether that was the reason or not, their behaviour surprised many of their critics. They went along with policies determined by others. They acquiesced in stringent economies that caused tension within the party and lost them support outside it.

Now it is being asked whether this card should be played again. The question comes partly from their success at the polls—they are the second largest party, with 40 seats out of 200, a gain of three at this election—and partly because of Finland's present economic crisis. Tough and unpopular measures will soon have to be taken to deal with the severe inflation and trading deficit. Unemployment is bound to rise over the coming year. Can the influence of the Communists be contained more effectively in these circumstances if they are in or outside the government?

The case for giving the Communists office as minority partners now is that it could be the best means of denying them greater power later on. The arguments are not all in one direction. The Communists may not be so docile this time as they were last. They may not even be prepared to take office on acceptable terms at all. No matter how cooperative they appear, every time they hold office they have opportunities for patronage which could have a significant effect after a while. But if they do return to office it would be wise for the outside world to appreciate how

fine the balance of advantage is.

The second development of wider interest concerns the Conservatives, another of the four main parties to have increased their strength in the new Parliament—as have the Centre Party, while the Social Democrats lost some ground. But it is not the winning of two more Conservative seats that is of interest as much as the Conservative declaration before that of support for President Kekkonen's reelection in 1978. It is not surprising to find Finns wanting President Kekkonen to remain in office. As President for the past 19 years he represents continuity and security for a country that feels itself badly in need of both. As the man who can get along with the Russians he provides the best assurance the Finns have of continued good relations with the Soviet Union. But the support now for his candidature in 1978 is essentially a symbolic act. Nobody can be sure whether even a fit man of 75 will be in good condition at 78 to take on such heavy burdens for a further year.

But by jumping on his bandwagon now the Conservatives are making a political gesture. They must be hoping to qualify for a return to office, which they have not held for some years, by making themselves politically respectable. That tells a good deal about Mr Kekkonen's Finland. Power resides in the Presidential Palace.

There are two reasons for this: one practical, the other psychological. In a country with many parties and an electoral system that makes big changes in parliamentary strength very unusual, it is virtually impossible for one party to win an absolute majority. The composition of governments is therefore determined by a process of bargaining that gives full scope to a President with an interest for power and much political skill. The psychological factor is the widespread belief that it would be too dangerous to have anyone in office who was not acceptable to Moscow, and that anyone not acceptable to President Kekkonen would not be acceptable to Moscow. This does not mean that the President takes his instructions from the Kremlin, but there is no doubt that much of his power comes from the feeling that it would be dangerous to thwart him. After this election there will be few indeed in Parliament prepared to do so.

Geoffrey Smith

Sportsview

British teams set out to beat the world at one of its oldest games

The eighth world tenpin bowling championship begins today at Tolworth, Surrey, beside the Kingston by-pass. Before anyone dismisses them as a mere event or a publicity stunt, let it be said that teams from no fewer than 37 countries are taking part, all of them amateurs and many competing only at considerable personal expense.

Bowling enthusiasts proudly claim that the game is one of the world's oldest and was played in different forms by the ancient Egyptians and Polynesians. It flourished in many parts of Europe, including Britain, in the Middle Ages, and was taken by colonial settlers to the United States where it was declared to be time-wasting and therefore sinful. But there was an easy let-out: it was only the ninepin variety that was proscribed and, by the addition of a tenth pin, the law was nearly circumvented.

The American Bowling Congress was founded in 1895, and today in the United States there are some 7,000,000 registered players who regularly compete in leagues and other tournaments. It is estimated that as many as four times that number play socially from time to time. In its modernized version the game gradually spread to Europe, beginning with Sweden

in 1910, but surprisingly it was not until 1960 that the first centre in Britain was opened in Stamford Hill, London. By that time bowling had become fully automated, which meant that the pins no longer had to be re-set laboriously by hand after each throw.

In the early 1960s the bowling craze swept the country, with new centres opening almost every month. I recall being sent to write a feature on the first all-night centre near Heathrow—which incidentally is still going strong—where even in mid-week there were queues for lanes at 3 a.m. But the boom collapsed almost as quickly as it had started and by the end of the decade many bowling alleys had closed their doors.

Terence Wright, chairman of the press and public relations near Heathrow, which incidentally is still going strong—where even in mid-week there were queues for lanes at 3 a.m. But the boom collapsed almost as quickly as it had started and by the end of the decade many bowling alleys had closed their doors.

"Bowling is a sport and not an evening entertainment," he insists. "The people who move in were the film distributors and overnight you had cinema managers being put in charge of bowling alleys, without any of the qualifications needed."

"The economics were all wrong. In order to make a centre pay, you have to organ-

If bowling is to regain lost ground it must be serious and competitive

ize leagues of housewives and schoolchildren and people who will use the place during the daytime. It is no good depending on people who just drop in for a casual game in the evenings."

Today there is a general feeling that, if bowling is to regain lost ground, it must be as a serious competitive sport. Chris Burt, the most widely exported of the British men's team, lives in Bournemouth and travels thousands of miles a year, mostly to London and the Midlands, to get regular tournament competition. At one time, before qualifying as an amateur, he played on the American professional circuit—the only Briton yet to have done so—where the rewards are almost as high as in golf. This serious image has been fostered by the *Federations Internationale des Quilleurs* (skittlers) which now has 47 member countries and is

accepted as the international governing body. Its British offshoot is the British Tenpin Bowling Association which has some 20,000 registered players competing regularly in more than 75 centres.

The BTBA clearly regards the world championships—the first to be held in Britain—and the attendant publicity as crucial to the sport's future in this country. The British record is good: David Pond, at the time an 18-year-old motor mechanic, won the world individual championship in Malmö, Sweden, in 1967 and shared the doubles title with John Douglas. Bernard Caterer, a member of the present team, won the annual world cup in Singapore two years ago, and several medals have been gained in team competitions.

"I honestly don't think the British men need fear any other team in the world," Buck says. "Mind you, that doesn't necessarily mean we're going to win any more."

British women, although they cannot claim a world champion, would insist their team record is at least as good as the men's. But they fret under a certain good-humoured disparagement and suggestions that they cannot manage the heavy 16lb ball; some of them would like to see

the maximum weight lowered. They play, if anything, even harder than the men. Pauline Bowry, the local Tolworth champion, competes in league matches up to five nights a week. Carole Culbert declares that she suffers horribly from nerves, and that the crunch comes when you're wearing a shirt with the name of your country on the back.

Teams for the week-long championships comprise nine men and six women from each country. They play a complicated series of events, at the end of which the 32 highest scoring men and the 24 leading women compete for the individual titles.

A recent Sports Council publication observes disarmingly that at first glance the game looks ridiculously easy. "Anyone can walk into a bowling centre and perhaps score three strikes (all ten pins down with one delivery) in a row. But to do this consistently needs a great deal more than luck."

To convert widely spaced pins into "spare"—that is toppling all ten pins in two deliveries—is a basic necessity. This is where the real skill of tenpin lies."

John Young



The British Women's tenpin bowling team—they tend to play harder than the men: From left: Meg Shaw, Eva Prattley, Carole Culbert, Pat Dew, Kay Metcalfe. Ready to bowl is Pauline Bowry.

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THE HIGH GROUND OF POLITICS

The Labour Party conference again showed that the Labour Party is split but redefined the division within the party in a way much more favourable to the nation as well as to the Government. The new point of division became dramatically evident at the Tribune meeting. The split is not between the Left and Right of the Labour Party, but between the far Left of the Labour Party and everybody else. Mr Mikardo, by managing to provoke a public quarrel with Mr Jack Jones and a semi-public one with Mr Michael Foot, did great service to the Government; he showed that the effective power of the Labour Party was now predominantly arrayed against the communistic left. It is true that the far Left are still disturbingly powerful on the National Executive but, with the division defined in the way it has been, the National Executive will for the present find it difficult to influence events.

This presents the Conservative Party with a most difficult problem. The conservative interest in the country is something which goes much wider than the body of the Conservative Party or of those who vote Conservative. In the present situation the conservative interest in the country is concerned primarily with bringing inflation under control; with establishing that government is able to control events; with restoring an orderly relationship between the trade unions and government; with restraint on government spending and with avoiding being governed by Mr Mikardo and the wreckers. All of these objectives now seem likely to be best advanced by a continuation of the present Government who for the present are the only anti-inflationary government that would be likely to win the cooperation of the trade union movement.

This is a transformation of the situation from what it was only a few months ago. Then the split in the Labour Party ran much nearer the centre or even to the Right. It was clear that Mr Healey had realized that Britain had to go through a serious recession if inflation was to be brought under control. Mr Healey was receiving firm support, as one would expect, from Mr Roy Jenkins and other Labour moderates, but the Prime Minister was still very

much concerned with securing the support of as broad a fraction of the Left and of the trade union movement as he could manage, and was certainly not convinced that a new incomes policy would be necessary. At that time, therefore, the Government looked as though they might indefinitely be pushed by trade union militancy and the Left into weak, inflationary and dangerous policies of the kind that had in fact been pursued between February, 1974, and last summer. The long march back from Mr Tony Benn and the great inflation only reached a decisive stage in July, with the £6 a week incomes policy, and at the Labour Party conference, with the defeat of the far Left. Even now the Labour Party is no broad centre party. It still has far too narrow a base. But it is a party which stretches from Mr Prentice to Mr Foot, both of whom are ill-advised on some important subjects, but both of whom are both democrats and patriots.

Mrs Thatcher has already had important successes as leader of the Conservative Party. She has consolidated her hold on the Conservative Party in Parliament and in the country, and is now the accepted leader of the Party with strong popular support. There are still senior members of the Conservative Party who are suspicious of her, yet for the moment there is no opposition to her leadership which need cause her much concern. She is doing a good job technically as a leader; she leaves an impression of being willing to listen to different views, and to learn from them, but of being hard headed as well as hard working.

Mrs Thatcher's visit to the United States and Canada was also a great success. It showed that she could handle the presentation of herself on a major tour very skilfully; she put across a firm and Conservative line which evoked a response in America and also evoked a response over here. It will be very surprising if Mrs Thatcher does not have a further triumph at the Conservative Party conference. Conservatives at the conference will be willing her to succeed and she has shown that she has the capacity to carry off this sort of major occasion. Obviously the difficulties of the economy and the need for

sacrifice may make the Government unpopular and may propel the Conservatives back into power, not for what they are, but for not being Labour. Yet there is this other argument which needs to be considered.

Briefly put, the argument is this: relations with the trade unions are the major problem of British society and British economic management. In the face of accelerating inflation the trade unions have at the eleventh hour started to behave responsibly in support of a Labour Government. This, for the moment, is a consideration of greater importance than any other, and will remain so until some measure of economic stability has been restored. The electorate will hesitate to vote Conservative if that would throw the Labour Party and the unions back into the hands of Mr Mikardo and his friends; that is to say, of a Left-Wing militancy which is totally irresponsible in its attitudes. Voters may not believe that a Conservative government would be capable of reaching agreement with the unions, or strong enough to prevail in disagreement.

This is what has happened in Portugal where national conservatives support Dr Soares not because he is a socialist but because he is a democrat, and the man best able to prevent a communist takeover. Mr Wilson could be seen as the Prime Minister best qualified to out-manoeuvre and defeat the militant Left. This phase of politics will not last forever, if only because the battles inside the Labour Party never come to an end. But so long as it does last, it could mean that the Labour Government would appear, not in matters, but in the most important matter, to be able to provide that national stability and national unity which is the main objective of the conservative interest in the country. The real question would then be: how long could Mr Wilson keep it up? Will the policy survive more than a year of high unemployment and income restraint? How high a price in sops to Socialism will the country have to pay? Yet so long as Mr Wilson's Government is united—or almost united—in fighting inflation, they will be playing the role which the public want them to play.

WHERE EVEN SCALIGER NODDED

How the trireme was propelled, like what song the sirens sang, though a puzzling question is not beyond all conjecture. From the dust of epistolary battle certain facts and opinions emerge still upright: that ordinary fit young men cannot be expected to produce more than 0.1 horse power except in short bursts; that the common image of three banks of oars (let alone five for Masefield's quinquemere) is nautically unsound; it is said to have been popularized by the sixteenth-century scholar Scaliger, who was born in the valley of the Garonne 150 kilometres from the sea; that the vessel could not pass through the water at much more than 12 knots either because it would founder by the stern or because realizable movement of the oars would achieve no forward thrust in the water at higher speeds; that with due allowance for the Black Sea currents, the prevailing Etesian winds and a generous understanding of the expression "a long day", Xenophon is a reliable witness as to the capability of a trireme under oar between Byzantium and Heraclea.

The exchange has been welcomed by one of the contributors to it as "merely irrelevant to our present discontents". The same sentiment is less indulgently expressed in the concluding couplet printed today: who cares about triremes when you can do the journey by air?

True, whatever OPEC does we are unlikely to be back to the galleys just yet. And much of the incidental information the correspondence has thrown up is of only marginal utility: that in a choppy sea Corinthian rowers were more likely than Athenians to catch crabs; that bringing news of the battle of Aegospotami from the Dardanelles to Sparta the pirate Theopompus probably made straight for Prasiai instead of rounding Cape Malea. It is hard to relate these things to the public sector borrowing requirement and other stern affairs on which the nation's life is bent.

Yet are we to believe that a *quæstio convivialis* which has drawn disputants from among yachtsmen, oarsmen, naval architects, Hellenists, philologists, cyberneticists, several varieties of engineer, slide-rule hand, back-of-a-used-envelope calculator, and serving officers of the Royal Navy, has nothing to tell us to our advantage?

The Vesta Rowing Club of Putney, at least, say they are so impressed by the performance implicit in Xenophon that they may consider getting out of their present racing fleet and going over to triremes (though partly with an eye to bar takings). But it is from the methodology of the inquiry that practical lessons can be drawn. It is an instructive instance of interdisciplinary problem-solving. Classical scholars delineate the crux. Naval architects and assorted engineers make conjectural

calculations. Practical seamen signal what can and cannot be done in Aegean waters. If there has been less than satisfactory measure of agreement, it is not entirely because the exchanges assumed an adversarial form. The data are defective, and we await further study of the hashish-impregnated remains of a Punic trireme fortuitously discovered off Marsala. One is disappointed by the performance of the computer which was brought into the case. Having bleakly convicted others of error it proceeded to convict itself also out of its own print-out by overlooking the fact that 69,703 oarsmen (the odd number would disturb the trim) in a vessel displacing 9,335.22 tons could not reach 18 knots through the water without human arms could be managed. That command must be related to the one which prints out domestic electricity bills in millions of pounds.

Though some may regret it, it is fitting to the present age that majestic assurance about the validity of one's own hypotheses and withering scorn for the contradictory fumbblings of others, which used to be the hallmark of the great textualists in the line from Bentley and Porson to Housman, sit easily now with initials M.L.Mech.E. &c on the evidence of this correspondence while an alien note of diffidence is permitted to adulterate the product of classical scholarship.

Wealth tax on art

From Mr Anthony Browne and Mr Mark Cardale
Sir, Mr John Bratby in his letter (September 27) asserts that artists would not be bound to pay wealth tax on the contents of their studios. We very much hope that this will become the Government's policy, but the evidence of the Green Paper on the Wealth Tax (Cmd 5704) suggests the contrary.

Although the question of an artist's stock of unsold paintings is not specifically discussed, paragraph 35 states that "It would be wrong to exempt business assets... from the tax or to calculate liabilities on such assets on specially favourable terms." Furthermore, paragraph 52, which deals with the valuation of businesses owned by sole proprietors, makes it quite clear that trading stock and work in progress will be included in the valuation of a business.

It would be most encouraging to have an assurance from the Minister for the Arts, confirming Mr Bratby's interpretation of the Government's policy. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY BROWNE, MARK CARDALE, The Bow Group, 240 High Holborn, WC1. October 1.

Mrs Castle and the doctors

From the Director of Clinical Studies, University of Oxford

Sir, The conflict between Mrs Castle and the doctors over facilities for private patients makes it important that the British public appreciate the considerable length of time needed to rectify any deficiency in the quality or number of senior hospital staff. It takes seven to 10 years after qualification to train a good hospital specialist. We see at the present time the paradox of an unprecedented high quality of entrant to medical schools and simultaneously an alarming increase in the proportion of consultants' appointments, particularly in psychiatry, geriatrics and radiology, being made to graduates of overseas medical schools, the present output of which have the utmost difficulty displaying a rudimentary knowledge of medicine and English language as evidenced by the 50 per cent failure rate in the recent examinations set up by the Temporary Registration Assessment Board of the General Medical Council. Such appointments are likely to be in their posts for over 30 years.

The responsibility for this state of affairs lies not with the profession, or indeed with Mrs Castle, but with a politician of contrasting persuasion, one of her long forgotten predecessors, Enoch Powell, who as Minister of Health in the early sixties chose to ignore signals that all was not well with the profession's relationships with its principal employer, the government, and designated and decreed clear evidence of a massive emigration of young doctors at a rate of some 600 a year, or about one third of the then output of our medical schools. Ten years ago British doctors far outnumbered the home product in many parts of Canada, Australia and New Zealand and were commonplace in America. Most are still there, and it is from this generation of doctors, now in their late career and early forties, that the young consultants of today should have come. They are lost for ever.

The discontent in the early and middle sixties was mainly about money. The discontent now is about freedom. The young doctors of today, the freedom of both doctor and patient threatened by Mrs Castle's determination to implement her policies for doctrinaire reasons in the face of all logic, against the advice of an all party report published in April 1973 in order to secure a political popularity among certain trade unions to foster support for a minority government voted by less than one in three of the electorate. Our medical students and young doctors are not fired by greed and selfishness and are not doing hard work. Yet during the past few weeks I have been dismayed by the number of highly gifted young men and women I have spoken to who

place in our democratic system, if they are re-designed for future needs. The fact is that, in the eyes of too many, Parliamentary government appears to be more paralysed by the parties than by the people, and willing to meet today's and tomorrow's political realities and anxieties. So much that needs to be done commands the support of significant numbers of all three main political parties. Moreover so many people, and individuals taking leading parts in national and local affairs, have felt unable to give active support to any political party in recent years. No doubt in other constituencies, committees corresponding to ours are having similar experiences. We are sure there is much common sense, common purpose, and good will, but this cannot express itself, nor restore public confidence, without a lead from established political figures.

May we suggest that the leading national members of the political parties, who set so good an example by working together at the centre for "Britain in Europe", should now be generous enough to take a similar initiative in respect of the nation's other affairs? They would be doing a service to the nation, and we are sure that they would be surprised at the warmth and breadth of the response from the public. This is a great nation. It need not be in its present unhappy state. It could be raised up by a Government which took actions which most reasonable people agree to be necessary and right. What is needed is to mobilise behind a Government carrying out such policies the full-hearted popular support which is there for the asking, but which no Government seeking narrow objectives has enjoyed, will enjoy, or can even hope to win.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE NEWSON, Chairman, HENRY CALLEY, Hon Treasurer, LEONARD GRIFFITH, Hon Secretary, Devises Constituency "Britain in Europe" Committee, JACK ANGLIE, Prospective Liberal Candidate, WILFRED CAVE, former Labour Candidate, As From The Old Vicarage, Bishops Cleeves, Devises, Wiltshire.

Party cooperation

From Mr George Newson, QC, and others

Sir, At a recent meeting to wind up the Devises constituency "Britain in Europe" Committee, those present felt it would be a great pity if their joint efforts were to end with the conclusion of the referendum campaign. The committee included leading members of each of the three main political parties in the constituency, and persons prominent locally in ways other than party politics. Wiltshire was one of the few counties in which the "yes" vote was a majority of the whole electoral roll, in addition to being, as was the case in many other areas, over 70 per cent of the votes cast. Our committee thus achieved success in the purpose for which it was created last April.

But we discovered something even more valuable. We found satisfaction in working together and agreement on number of important political issues besides the Common Market, including the threat to Parliamentary government and the erosion of liberty and democracy.

Furthermore throughout our campaign we found immense support and willingness to work together from Wiltshire electors who are not directly identified with any political party. We brought together as colleagues people of different political persuasions, covering a wide and breadth of interests rarely, if ever, drawn into communication, let alone common cause, by contemporary party activities.

This experience has been reassuring. It has shown up the possibilities and opportunities which exist to lift our country out of its depression, its crisis of authority, and the accumulating risks to democracy and social stability. Political parties and governments in recent years have had to wear—or, equally damaging, are popularly thought to be confined within—the strait-jacket of immediate party interest. The reasons for this are not our present concern. That our present party system does not command public confidence is more and more apparent.

This does not mean that political parties, and the communities of interest which in normal times they focus, will not regain an essential

for whatever purpose, then the rule of law breaks down. It is also surprising that all the sympathy in the Spanish case has been bestowed on the murderers, and hardly a word for the policemen who were the victims, and the grief to their families and friends. In fact your article does not even mention them, let alone any words of sympathy.

General Franco has had the courage to stand up and be counted in his support for the rule of law. At a time in history when so much violence is being done, and threats to destroy the fabric of civilised society, Spain's stand is to be commended. We could well take a leaf out of his book in dealing with the situation in Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS H. BINGHAM, Ridge House, Montvale Road, Les Vardes, St Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I., September 30.

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Navigating the Greek trireme

From the President of Wolfson College, Cambridge

Sir, Thank you for giving space to such a fascinating and instructive correspondence. May I try to cast the account? All good men seem to agree to the following:

1. That oared ships did not go into battle under sail.
2. That the Greek trireme used full oar power, to produce up to 11 knots in short bursts, only in battle or in emergency.
3. That oared ships did not put to sea when the wind was unfavourable, rowed out of harbour and then either hoisted sail or continued rowing according to the state of the wind.
4. That a trireme's speed in still water under oar can be credibly calculated to have been five to six knots with one division rowing, a little more with two.

And that this calculation does not conflict with Xenophon's "120 nautical miles under oar in a long day". The word he uses can only mean the hours of daylight. So, with 15 hours of daylight, plus one hour of twilight at latitude 45° on midsummer day, the speed works out at seven knots and a half, but there would have been a little help from the current for the last 103 miles. According to the Navigation Department of the National Maritime Museum, Black Sea currents run counter-clockwise, but through the Bosphorus there is a north-south current because of the 17° difference of latitude at each end. The later MSS of Xenophon have a variant reading "a very long day", which suggests that the scribe shared your correspondent's feeling that Xenophon was exaggerating a bit. Etesian winds blowing with the current through the Bosphorus would have kept a galley in port.

Lord St David's galleys were the a scaloccio type of the second half of the sixteenth century with gangs of men pulling, and in some cases also pushing, very long sweeps. A contemporary admiral reported them slower, in spite of greater manpower, than the earlier azenite galleys in which three or four men sat at benches set herring-bone fashion each rowing an oar of 30 ft or so. My guess is that all would be right in the end as it has done in Germany. However, there is no prospect of this with our present type of government.

Meanwhile there will probably be sufficient doctors of a sort though, alas, the public will suffer for some time. But there is a tide in the affairs of nations, and a tide turns. When it does the probability is that our gifted young men and women will flock back, having matured intellectually in an atmosphere of freedom and peace.

Yours faithfully, H. J. SEDDON, Lake House, 24 Gordon Avenue, Stanmore Middlesex.

Car lights

From Mr H. J. Anstey

Sir, Dr J. D. Armstrong (September 30) pleads for headlights at all times in poor light. When road or wet conditions can be positively dangerous. Whether or not headlights are adequate in rain depends on the quality of the headlights and their being in working order. To advocate the use of headlights (even dipped whatever, in law, that may mean) is to advocate the temporary blinding, by the considerable light reflected from the wet road surface, of drivers travelling in the opposite direction. This is scarcely in the interests of the safety of anyone.

Out of consideration for other road users (not from thoughtlessness or irresponsibility) I prefer to rely upon my side lights (which I take care to keep effective) when driving in lighted streets in the rain. Yours faithfully, H. J. ANSTEY, 101 Upper Tulse Hill, SW2, September 30.

Treasure hunting

From Dr Graham Webster

Sir, If all treasure hunters were as public spirited and meticulous as Mr Longfield in recording their discoveries and presenting them to museums with a full record, every one would be highly delighted, most of all the professional archaeologists; unfortunately, for everyone as intelligent and conscientious there are dozens of metal detector hunters who take an entirely different view, and sell their objects which they recover to dealers. There are now a number of lists in circulation offering archaeological material to collectors and museums; this is a trade which is growing rapidly and, unhappily, being encouraged by many provincial museum directors who are buying such material.

The Museums Association is against this practice, but it creates a real dilemma when interesting finds from local sites are offered to a curator. It is extremely difficult to see how this situation can be averted from becoming much worse without some sort of legislation which could be effectively implemented. Professional archaeologists only wish there were far more trea-

navies had many banks of oars; and suggested instead that the Greeks must have had an azenite system for triremes and a scaloccio system for the rest. The first part of this suggestion has been rejected because:

1. The Greek trireme's oars were 12½ or 13½ ft long (the longer oars amidships and, surprisingly, no difference between the levels); 2. an azenite galley rowing 120 men would have been far too long to fit into the known length of the Piræus trireme sheds, the three-level system being (obviously) more economical of space.

There are other more detailed, equally cogent, reasons but these two are conclusive. Tarn was quite right about the ships of numerical denominator higher than three. They must have rowed more than one man to an oar at no more than three levels, usually, to judge from the monuments, at two. And the numerical denominator has nothing to do with levels, as people still tend to think; but indicates the power to which the original rowing unit had been raised by the various developments (ie, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc men to the oar-room, the space between the rowlocks, irrespective of level). A three-level trireme does not imply a four-level quadrireme.

Two final points:

1. The men who rowed the Athenian galleys in the fifth century were not slaves; indeed the slaves who rowed exceptionally at Arginusae were given their freedom for it.
2. If the hashish-carrying Punic warship reported in your column, they were not slaves; indeed the slaves who rowed exceptionally at Arginusae were given their freedom for it.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MORRISON, Wolfson College, Cambridge, October 2.

From Mr G. M. Lee
Sir, Non nimium curo, fuerit quæ forma triremis. Aegæas, Icaræ, tutus aquas. Yours, G. M. LEE, 13 Commercial Road, Bedford.

North London Polytechnic

From Mr L. G. Smith

Sir, Do you think it would be possible to declare a closed season in the Polytechnic of North London controversy? Those of us who actually work there, and who therefore cannot swing wide, as Mr Levin would like to, at the very heart of the theory then current that the ships of high numerical denominator in the Hellenistic

while the good work done at PNL goes unregarded. The students and the Polytechnic that exist in the imagination of these minorities are not mine. My 11 years experience of the Polytechnic is of an establishment where a lot of hard dedicated work is done by staff and students under the wing rule of a very few, and where the standards are not threatened; where students do not espouse the "amoral, nihilistic, and trendy" values that Mr Cox and his co-authors see as making them vulnerable to a "conservative political revolution"; where liberal and moderate opinion, far from being "happily ignorant" has been remarkably well-informed, and has energetically mediated between the belligerents and dogmatists for a number of years, and where the very great problems resulting from the amalgamation of two polytechnics of very different traditions have been largely overcome.

And now Mr Levin, quoting *Rape of Reason*, has the gall to assert that the standards are "too low" and that the standards are "too low". Nothing could be further from the truth. But confrontation is always more exciting than consensus to crusaders.

Yours sincerely, L. G. SMITH, Head of English Division, The Polytechnic of North London, Department of Language and Literature, Prince of Wales Road, NWS.

Chinese on Everest

From Mr Michael Baker

Sir, Chris Bonington's expedition has found the three-metre survey pole placed by the Chinese earlier this year on the summit of Everest. This discovery corroborates beyond dispute the Chinese claim to have made the top. The Chinese achievement deserves to be saluted, and I hope you may feel it appropriate that I should use your columns to offer congratulations to their team, and particularly to Phantog and the eight others who reached the summit.

I write on behalf of a club that provided the nucleus of members of the pre-war expeditions to the mountain. All of these were repulsed on the route taken by the Chinese. Theirs is a fine feat, worthy of remark. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL BAKER, Honorary Secretary, Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, W1.

A friendly word

From Mr Gilbert Hall

Sir, May those of us who believe in the importance of retaining the civilised virtues of tolerance and compassion be allowed through your columns to pay tribute to Mrs Wilson's courageous, compassionate and human gesture in seeking out John Stonehouse in his lonely isolation at Blackpool for a friendly word? There were many in the conference hall, and outside, who could well learn the lessons of her kindness.

Even a non-Christian would lose nothing by heeding the admonition, "Let us be without sin cast the first stone".

Yours faithfully, GILBERT HALL, Great Cuts Farm House, East Hyde, Luton, Bedfordshire.

Television journalism

From Mr Michael Nicholson

Sir, Messrs. Birt and Jay show appalling ignorance of those they critically examine in today's (September 29) article on television journalism.

They write, "... there is a broad cultural lag in the qualifications and background of news editors and reporters. The archetype, they suggest, like 'the cub reporter, who having left school at sixteen wins his spurs covering crime in Gateshead'."

The monstrous snobbery of this pair aside, believing as they do that anyone with such a background is disqualified thereafter from any distinguished career in television journalism, it is a pity they did not spend a little more time in research before they sat down to write. A quick glimpse at ITN's "Who's Who" might have been enough.

In ITN there are 32 reporters. None, and I have checked, left school before completing their education to cover crime in Gateshead. Twenty-four of the 32 reporters are university graduates and quite a number, surprise! actually speak a foreign language! More to the point, and something both Birt and Jay are well aware of and yet make no mention, is

that the present organisation of newsrooms and news coverage across the whole spectrum is geared to the specialist reporter who tends to deal exclusively in his own subject, be it politics, economics, sport, defence, crime or whatever. There are educated men who like Peter Jay have become accepted authorities; men who somehow manage daily to explain the specialist and often complex news items in a way that is understandable. And viewers, remember, are not all "top people" already well on their way to understanding.

The day when the general purpose reporter would rush from a press conference on the new hem line at the Savoy Hotel and then on to an interview with the Chairman of British Rail before going on to interview the Prime Minister is long over. And both writers know it. It seems that both Birt and Jay have done what their archetypal cub reporter has hardkilled, trench-coated ex-Gateshead crime reporter was fond of doing daily in his front page splash; never letting the facts get in the way of a good story!

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL NICHOLSON, Reporter, ITN, 21 Brushwood Road, New Surrey, September 29.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

Sir Ronald Edwards made non-executive chairman of British Leyland board

By Desmond Quigley

Professor Sir Ronald Edwards, speaking a few hours after being appointed non-executive chairman of British Leyland Limited yesterday, said he did not regard the company as being "bound to every conclusion and recommendation in the Ryder Report" on the company.

However, he added: "We have to take account of the fact that it has been regarded by the Government as a basis for coming in and providing the finance for the group. So it is a basis."

If he and Mr Alex Park, the chief executive, "felt it was taking us along the wrong direction we would certainly go along and talk about that" to the proposed National Enterprise Board, of which Lord Ryder is chairman designate.

Sir Ronald, who retired as chairman and chief executive of the Bechtel Group in May 1974, is a former chairman of the Electricity Council.

His appointment ends a long search by Lord Ryder for a suitable candidate. In fact Sir Ronald turned down the job once partly on the grounds of health and partly because of other business engagements. He denied that he had been pressured into the job, but had changed his mind after "friendly persuasion".

The appointments of four other non-executive directors were also announced yesterday. They are Mr Robert Clark, a director of the Ryder team investigating BL and who is chairman and chief executive of Hill Samuel, the merchant bankers; Mr John Gardiner, an ex-financial journalist who is now chief executive of the Laird Group and a member of the NEB's advisory committee; Lord Greenhill of Harrow, a director of BL before its reconstruction and former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the Diplomatic Service; and Scottish-born Mr Ian McGregor, chairman and chief executive of the United States mining conglomerate Amstar and widely tipped to succeed Sir Ronald as chairman of BL in a few years' time.

Lord Stokes, the chairman of the old BLMC company, has also agreed to act as president of the new company with a largely overseas and ambassadorial role.

The company reported yesterday that under the rights issue, which was devised as a way for the Government to put money into the company and for which private shareholders were strongly advised not to subscribe, the Government has secured a 95 per cent holding in the company, which now has an issued share capital of £129.6m.

Of the new shares subscribed for, 4,542 went to private shareholders and 154.9 million to the Government, which also took up a further 45 million shares as the underwriter.

The NEB said Sir Ronald would be able to monitor the performance of the company as any major shareholder in the company could do, but he did not expect "a lot of interference" from the board in the running of Leyland, nor did he expect any personal problems with Lord Stokes.

Commenting on criticism that the Government was throwing money away like confetti on Leyland, Sir Ronald said: "It was made clear in the Ryder Report that the additional tranches of money will only come along if we are increasing our productivity and efficiency. We have got to make a damn good showing to justify each tranche of money. It has got to be worked for and earned."

Price increases in Leyland are to increase the prices of most of its cars by an average of 3.7 per cent on Monday. The basic Mini 850 will cost £1,298.70, an increase of £50.51, while the Jaguar XJ6 3.4 will cost £5,198.31, a rise of £200.07.

By Our Financial Staff
Reflecting the deep recession in the motor industry, Chrysler United Kingdom, the British arm of America's Chrysler Corporation, reported first-half operational losses of £11.5m.

The company, producer of Hillman Avenger and Imp cars, expects to remain unprofitable in the second half of 1975. Last year Chrysler United Kingdom ran operational losses of £12.6m.

"At the net level, first-half losses by the group this year are running at almost £16m as it faces 'extremely difficult' conditions in a severely depressed and highly competitive market for motor vehicles. The company continues to receive support from its American parent."

The value of sales was up by 15.3 per cent to £191m, but the number of units sold so far this year, at 166,822, was 7.7 per cent less than at this time last year.

Exports continued at a high level, however, and were worth £90m, against £50m in the first half of 1974.

Chrysler says: "General market conditions for automobiles and commercial vehicles remain unfavourable. Fleet purchases are particularly depressed by the generally difficult business conditions."

By the end of this year, Chrysler UK will introduce its new Chrysler Alpine car, made in France.

Also by the end of this year it hopes to bring in its employee participation scheme aimed at giving employees greater involvement in the business, and designed to improve industrial relations and operations.



Professor Edwards (left) with Mr Park yesterday: Ryder report "only a basis for action"

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£350m plan to rescue Norwegian shipping

From Our Correspondent Oslo, Oct 3

New guidelines for Norwegian shipping policy were given today in a White Paper on the shipping industry. At the same time the government tabled a proposal to set up a provisional guarantee institute to help the industry and the drilling rig owners in their liquidity crisis.

The ceiling set on the government's engagement in such a guarantee institute is put at 2,000m Norwegian kroner (about £175m) provided that the shipping industry and finance institutions contribute on a similar scale. Thus the total sum may be as high as 4,000m kroner (about £350m).

The aim of the policy is to prevent forced sales of ships and rigs at very low prices which have a useful and profitable future once the market improves.

A number of Norwegian shipping companies, which are heavily engaged in the tanker trade, are in difficulties, and the situation is becoming more serious. The future for the drilling rig operators is also difficult—not least because the rigs on order have no advance contracts to fall back on once they are delivered.

There are 17 rigs under the Norwegian flag in operation and a further 30 on order. The market prospects for 1976 and 1977 are bleak. The rigs on order have a value of 4,800m kroner. The owners' combined debt for ships delivered or on order is 4,400m kroner, spread over a number of years.

It is proposed that the government should hold 60 per cent of the guarantee institute's share capital of 1m kroner and the rest by the industry. Of the best of the five would be appointed by the government.

In principle, loans from the institute should be given only against security in ships or rigs, but it is accepted that the loans may be granted at a concessionary rate. Participation in the arrangement is open for companies or persons who are owners or have an order ships or rigs registered in Norway.

The White Paper accepts that the government and the industry should grant technical and financial assistance to developing countries in order to enable them to get their share of transport for their own commodities.

However, the government proposals stress the importance of Norwegian shipping policy to strengthen cooperation with industrialized countries and to develop cooperation with countries likely to increase control over transport.

It may be useful for Norwegian shipowners to exploit the opportunities to sail under foreign flags, the White Paper adds. Mr Darre Hirsch, director of the Shipowners Association, says that foreign flags may be the extended arm of Norwegian shipping.

employment in the past month, covering those who have been without work for 27 weeks or more, reached its highest level in about 30 years, at 1.6 million. Administration officials say there is increasing evidence of a sustained economic recovery, which will ensure reductions in unemployment and which could take the jobless rate to 7 per cent within the next 12 months.

But many economists outside the Administration are less confident, noting that the resurgence of substantial inflation pressures and Administration resistance to additional stimulative action could abort the recovery in the immediate months ahead.

The decline in unemployment was caused by a minor increase in total employment and the reopening of schools, which slightly reduced the number of those seeking work.

The seasonally adjusted total of unemployed remained at the August level of 7.8 million, although the Department of Labour reported a minor percentage change to 8.3 from 8.4 per cent.

The decline, however small, did serve to encourage the stock markets, where increasing confidence is becoming widespread again, in large measure caused by hopes of some relaxation in the Federal Reserve's tight money policies.

Analysts were somewhat surprised by the latest New York Federal Reserve figures, which showed that the money supply in the summer weeks of September 24 declined by \$1,000m (over £500m), the biggest fall since early January.

The Times index: 138.92 +1.02
The FT index: 329.7 +1.1

THE POUND.
Bank buys 1.67
Bank sells 1.61
Australia \$ 39.25
Austria Sch 37.25
Belgium Fr 83.75
Canada \$ 2.13
Denmark Kr 12.80
Finland Mk 8.20
France Fr 9.55
Germany DM 2.50
Greece Dr 69.75
Hongkong \$ 10.60
Italy Lr 1535.00
Japan Yn 646.00
Netherlands Gld 5.65
Norway Kr 11.75
Portugal Esc 86.00
Spain Pes 124.30
Sweden Kr 9.30
Switzerland Fr 5.65
US \$ 2.08
Yugoslavia Dnr 40.00

Gold fell \$4.75 an ounce to \$138.50. SDR-\$ was 1.17089 while SDR-£ was 0.575178.
Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1155.1 (previous 1163).
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State docks head denies takeover would mean Felixstowe rundown

By Michael Bailey

While worried management and union leaders sought fresh assurances from their board about the future of Felixstowe, the future of the Felixstowe scheme would mean death for some ports it was stated by a spokesman for the British Ports Association after a conference of the association's small ports in Perth yesterday.

They reaffirmed their opposition to the proposals, of which the effect would be "disastrous" by imposing permanent employment on small ports with sharply fluctuating workloads.

Our Financial Staff write: The shares of Felixstowe Dock and Railway jumped 39p to 127p yesterday, valuing the company at £4.44m.

This followed Thursday's revelation that the state-owned British Transport Docks Board had approached Britain's largest private enterprise port with a cash offer worth 150p a share.

Last night a spokesman for the City Takeover Panel indicated that the offer would come under their surveillance, but pointed out that the Panel could not consider it until a public announcement had been made and a copy of the offer sent to Felixstowe's shareholders.

At the moment the BTDB approach is only a verbal one and a formal offer depends on government consent.

Reflecting hopes that the BTDB would have similar companies in its sights, Manchester Ship Canal put on 11p to 153p.

Mr Marius Fox, Shadow Transport Minister, yesterday described the takeover plan as another case of "backdoor nationalization". He added: "This action will only strike dismay into the British exporters, who have relied on Felixstowe as an efficient and trouble-free port."

"On returning to Parliament we will do all in our power to prevent this unnecessary public expenditure."

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff
GEC closed its factory at West Chirton, near South Shields, yesterday, and dismissed the 300 employees. They are the first casualties in the GEC's plan to axe 4,700 jobs under the Post Office's cutback in orders for new equipment.

The unions claim that up to 20,000 jobs in the telecommunications industry are threatened over the next 12 months.

Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, met Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday and asked for an urgent report on the need for the Post Office's huge cutbacks.

The issue is to be raised in the Cabinet.

Workers from GEC, and Plessey, which also plans redundancies, demonstrated outside the Department of Industry offices yesterday. Hundreds of workers from the telecommunications industry demonstrated at the Labour Party conference.

The unions say they understand that GEC is planning to end the twilight shift throughout its factories from Monday. Next week GEC workers will hold a meeting in Middlesbrough to decide what action to take.

Mr Varley's swift action, coupled with his "encouraging" attitude in his meeting with the unions, has given some workers that the Post Office will have to revise its cutbacks.

Until Mr Varley gets his report from the Post Office and discusses it in the Cabinet, GEC has decided to postpone action on its planned redundancies, although part-time staff might still be affected.

The company said yesterday that even if the Post Office decided to increase ordering levels, GEC could cope without the West Chirton factory. The equipment for Sowerby telephone exchanges, which the factory made, is regarded by the Post Office as outdated, and it has made no fresh orders in three years.

GEC claims the West Chirton factory has not been more than 30 per cent utilized for many years, and has run out of work. The Government's concern over this and other threatened redundancies is that they are in development areas.

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South African curbs
A moratorium on profits and wage rise demands is expected to be announced on Tuesday by Mr Owen Horwood, South African Finance Minister. An anti-inflation plan was signed in Pretoria yesterday by members of the Prime Minister's economic advisory council, according to the Johannesburg newspaper, the Star.

Honeywell-Xerox talks
Honeywell, the American electronics group, has confirmed that it is holding discussions with Xerox Corporation on "the disposition of the Xerox Data Systems division". This follows the Xerox announcement that it was withdrawing from the computer mainframe business.

Licences issued for inland oil and gas search
A four-company consortium, including British Gas and BP Petroleum Development, has been granted 11 licences to explore for oil and gas in parts of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and South Yorkshire.

Four months ago British Gas and BP Petroleum Development were licensed to explore a 1,033 sq kilometre area of Dorset and Hampshire.

The licences authorize the search for oil and gas by prospecting and geological survey.

Libya is to send a delegation to New York next week in an effort to resolve the dispute which has led it to ban Occidental Petroleum's 520 expatriate employees and their wives and children from leaving the country.

In a statement yesterday Occidental said the Libyan Government had accepted its offer to try and resolve the dispute amicably.

The company claims that Libya has broken its oil concession, exploration and production sharing agreements by arbitrarily restricting production and just as described as "other improper acts". Supplies of crude oil from the company's Zueitina terminal have been suspended.

Libya's action is seen as retaliation for Occidental's decision last month to file notices of international arbitration against the country, citing Libya's alleged breaches of agreement.

Included in the list of employees banned from leaving Libya are 190 British subjects.

Four important questions for every shareholder

1. Are you satisfied that the shares you hold are the right ones for today's unsettled conditions? YES NO

2. Do your shares give you a wide enough investment spread to reduce the risk of setbacks in particular industries or countries? YES NO

3. Are you able to keep sufficiently in touch with the Stock Market to recognise the right time to sell? YES NO

4. Are you happy about all the paperwork and tax complications involved in owning shares? YES NO

If you've answered "No" to any of these questions you could be better off with an investment which offers many of the advantages of shares without most of the worries—an investment such as a Hambro Investment Bond.

If you hold shares worth £5,000 or more, Hambro can now offer a new Share Exchange Plan which will enable you to switch your shares for a Hambro Bond at a considerable saving in cost.

Send the coupon for details, now.

State docks head denies takeover would mean Felixstowe rundown

By Michael Bailey

While worried management and union leaders sought fresh assurances from their board about the future of Felixstowe, the future of the Felixstowe scheme would mean death for some ports it was stated by a spokesman for the British Ports Association after a conference of the association's small ports in Perth yesterday.

They reaffirmed their opposition to the proposals, of which the effect would be "disastrous" by imposing permanent employment on small ports with sharply fluctuating workloads.

Our Financial Staff write: The shares of Felixstowe Dock and Railway jumped 39p to 127p yesterday, valuing the company at £4.44m.

This followed Thursday's revelation that the state-owned British Transport Docks Board had approached Britain's largest private enterprise port with a cash offer worth 150p a share.

Last night a spokesman for the City Takeover Panel indicated that the offer would come under their surveillance, but pointed out that the Panel could not consider it until a public announcement had been made and a copy of the offer sent to Felixstowe's shareholders.

At the moment the BTDB approach is only a verbal one and a formal offer depends on government consent.

Reflecting hopes that the BTDB would have similar companies in its sights, Manchester Ship Canal put on 11p to 153p.

Mr Marius Fox, Shadow Transport Minister, yesterday described the takeover plan as another case of "backdoor nationalization". He added: "This action will only strike dismay into the British exporters, who have relied on Felixstowe as an efficient and trouble-free port."

"On returning to Parliament we will do all in our power to prevent this unnecessary public expenditure."

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff
GEC closed its factory at West Chirton, near South Shields, yesterday, and dismissed the 300 employees. They are the first casualties in the GEC's plan to axe 4,700 jobs under the Post Office's cutback in orders for new equipment.

The unions claim that up to 20,000 jobs in the telecommunications industry are threatened over the next 12 months.

Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, met Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday and asked for an urgent report on the need for the Post Office's huge cutbacks.

The issue is to be raised in the Cabinet.

Workers from GEC, and Plessey, which also plans redundancies, demonstrated outside the Department of Industry offices yesterday. Hundreds of workers from the telecommunications industry demonstrated at the Labour Party conference.

The unions say they understand that GEC is planning to end the twilight shift throughout its factories from Monday. Next week GEC workers will hold a meeting in Middlesbrough to decide what action to take.

Mr Varley's swift action, coupled with his "encouraging" attitude in his meeting with the unions, has given some workers that the Post Office will have to revise its cutbacks.

Until Mr Varley gets his report from the Post Office and discusses it in the Cabinet, GEC has decided to postpone action on its planned redundancies, although part-time staff might still be affected.

The company said yesterday that even if the Post Office decided to increase ordering levels, GEC could cope without the West Chirton factory. The equipment for Sowerby telephone exchanges, which the factory made, is regarded by the Post Office as outdated, and it has made no fresh orders in three years.

GEC claims the West Chirton factory has not been more than 30 per cent utilized for many years, and has run out of work. The Government's concern over this and other threatened redundancies is that they are in development areas.

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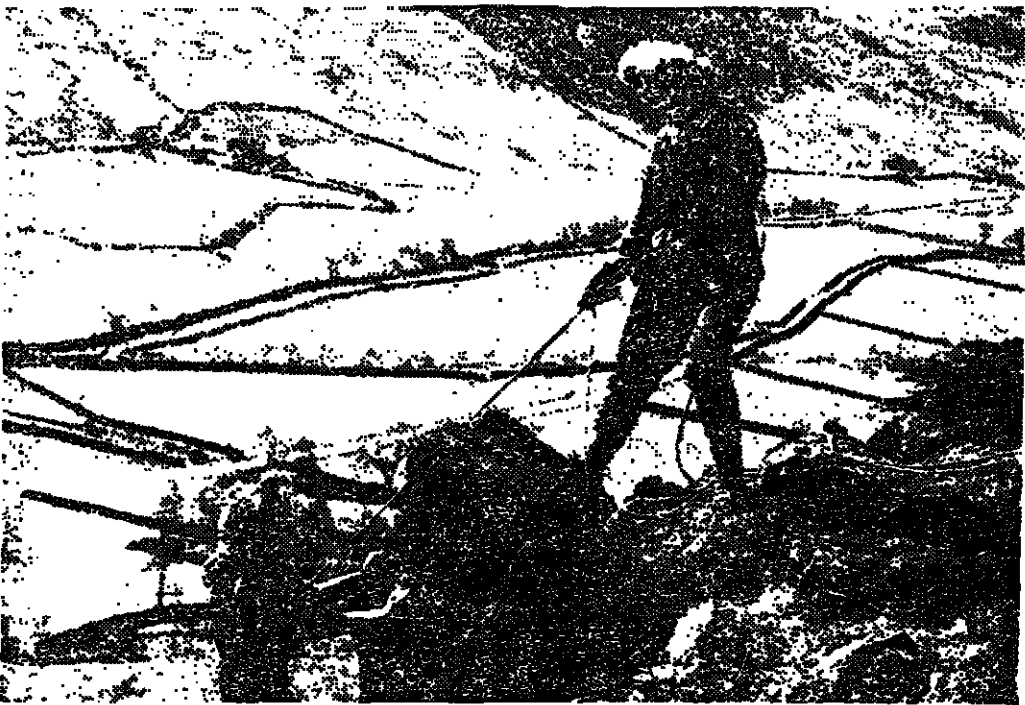
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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Insurance



A wide variety of insurance is available, but some hazardous pursuits are normally excluded. Cover can usually be obtained but requires an increased premium.

Topping up life cover with a personal accident policy

Many people like to "top up" their life insurance cover with personal accident insurance. There are a number of reasons for this, apart from the cheapness of insuring against an accident.

First, there is often a feeling among those who are comparatively young that, if they should die prematurely, it is much more likely to be in an accident than because of a heart attack, disease or illness. Secondly, many personal accident policies provide weekly benefits for temporary total disablement (and some pay a smaller amount for partial disablement), as well as a capital sum for death or permanent disablement.

Normally, weekly benefits are not payable for more than 104 weeks, but there are a few exceptions. The Provincial, for instance, pioneered a policy which, although renewable annually, pays weekly benefits for life—if the disablement continues for that length of time. But there is the practical drawback that, after the first five years, the benefit is cut by 50 per cent—just when a lot of people probably would like it to increase.

One of the reasons why both personal accident and permanent health insurance (which pays a weekly benefit in the event of disablement because of accident or sickness) do not always give as much protection as one might like is simply that most people would not be prepared to pay the premium which would have to be charged for really wide cover. And so the degree of protection is trimmed to the premium which people are prepared to pay.

A wide variety of different types of personal accident insurance are available. Many have been described in a useful booklet on the subject which has been published by the Sun Alliance and London Insurance Group.

One point which is not always appreciated fully about personal accident insurance is that it is renewable annually. In other words, the insurers

are not obliged to continue providing cover at the same premium, or at all, if the insured is generally quite profitable, and so it is not very likely that a company will want to increase all its premiums sharply; and nor is it very likely to withdraw from writing this class of business altogether. But an individual who makes a number of claims for temporary disablement may be considered "accident prone"—with the result that the insurers may not be prepared to renew the insurance.

Usually, there are age limits; once you are over a certain age, the insurers will not go on covering you. And it is common practice for personal accident policies to have various exclusions. Motor cycling is a common exclusion, as are hunting, potholing, parachuting, climbing or mountaineering (involving the use of ropes and/or guides) and a number of other potentially hazardous sports and pastimes.

This is not to say that cover cannot be obtained for those who risk life and limb in this way. It is simply that they justify an increase in premium. If they were to be included as a matter of course, slightly higher premiums would have to be paid by all the other policyholders who had no intention of taking part in such activities.

Rather than exclude certain sports or pastimes altogether, some insurers give a reduced benefit for an accident which occurs when somebody was taking part in a particular activity. Even so, there are some sports which are considered too hazardous even for that treatment.

For anybody who indulges in what is considered a dangerous sport, not every insurer will be willing to provide cover. In that case, it may be necessary to resort to the facilities available in the London market, which, in the insurance world, is popularly known as the "lucky-to-be-alive line slip". A Lloyd's broker should be able to make the necessary arrangements.

A large number of insurers each write a small proportion of hazardous personal accident risks—ranging from film stunt men to explorers and those collecting wild animals for

zoos. Many of those who undertake dangerous feats for money and/or publicity are insured in this way.

A rather different form of personal accident cover is available through Lloyd's brokers, *Burgoyne Alford & Co. Ltd.* It is intended primarily for married couples with dependent children.

Only fatal accident is covered; there are no weekly benefits for temporary disablement. For a premium of £20 a year, a husband and wife can each be covered for £10,000. This premium holds good apart from those in an occupation which is considered by underwriters to be "exceptionally hazardous". And, of course, certain hazardous pursuits are excluded.

Where this insurance differs from most others is that if both husband and wife should be killed, the total payment will not be simply the cover on the life of each; this figure will be doubled.

So, if husband and wife are each insured for £10,000, it is this figure which will be paid when one is killed in an accident. But if both should be killed in an accident, the payout will be £40,000. In fact, to qualify for this "bonus", both do not have to be killed in the same accident. If an accident to the survivor takes place during the year of cover, and the person involved dies within 12 months of the accident, underwriters will pay out £40,000, in addition to the £10,000 payable at the first death.

In view of the difficulties and complications involved in insuring in a form which would ensure that the first benefit is paid to the surviving parent and the benefit on the second death to the children of the marriage, the cover has been set up in two insurances. Each parent is insured separately and is issued with a certificate under the terms of the Married Women's Property Act.

The spouse and the Royal Bank of Scotland are the trustees for all the insurance arranged on this basis, and underwriters undertake to pay all the fees to which the bank may be entitled for administering the trust funds.

John Drummond

Taxation

Lost appeal of discretionary trusts

If a person wants to make a gift it can be done broadly in one of two ways. The donee can be given an absolute interest in the asset, as would be the case in an outright gift of money or shares, for example.

The recipient, as the new owner, is entitled to any income arising from the asset, and can freely dispose of it. The other way of making a gift is to create a trust. This involves transferring the assets into the control of persons called trustees who will administer the property for the benefit of individuals called the beneficiaries.

The person making the gift is known for this purpose as the settlor. No matter which method is employed in making a gift the donor is liable to capital transfer tax.

The subject of trusts is so specialized and technical that if anyone has a problem the safest course of action is to consult a specialist. It can be useful though to have a broad look at them, in order to be aware of the taxation consequences that flow from a trust, particularly as the tax load has been exacerbated by the capital transfer tax.

Trusts can be divided into two main types, those with an

"interest in possession" and discretionary trusts. A trust with an interest in possession is one in which a beneficiary is legally entitled to the whole or part of the income of the trust funds.

On the other hand, a discretionary trust is one in which the trustees are given the discretion to distribute the income and capital to a stated class of beneficiaries, for example to the settlor's children, grandchildren and their respective spouses.

A discretionary trust is not a beneficiary has a legal right to the income unless the trustees say so. It has been a particularly useful vehicle when parents have wanted to settle money on their children, but were undecided on how the funds should be allocated, or feared that the children would not be sufficiently deserving, or that they would fritter the money away.

I talk in the past tense here because discretionary trusts have become decidedly less popular since capital transfer tax came on the scene, as we shall see.

A trust, whether an interest in possession or discretionary, might also be an accumulating settlement. This is a trust under which, as its title suggests, the

income is accumulated, normally for the benefit of young children and who only have a contingent or conditional right to a share in the trust on attaining majority or a later age if preferred.

Under this sort of trust the trustees are allowed to make payments for the children's maintenance, education and benefit—although it is useful to bear in mind that there is no advantage in doing this if a parent created the trust because the maintenance payments and so on made for the child are treated as the parent's income.

On the other hand, if someone other than the parent creates the trust (the grandparent, for example) the payments are treated as net income of the child after the deduction of income tax.

This is an appropriate point to look at the income tax position of a trust, whether discretionary or an interest in possession. Its income suffers basic rate tax, currently at 35 per cent, and the top rate of the investment income surcharge, currently at 15 per cent—a total of 50 per cent.

On distribution of income the beneficiary will be treated as having received income on which tax of 50 per cent has been deducted. The beneficiary

will be able to reclaim this tax if it exceeds his personal liability.

The problem here for the accumulating settlement is that, to the extent that income exceeds payments for the maintenance, education and benefit of the children, there is an unrelieved income tax burden of 50 per cent.

As I have already mentioned, on creating the trust the settlor has made a gift which is liable to capital transfer tax. The value of the gift is added to his other personal CTT cumulations, if any, in order to calculate the tax payable.

Furthermore, if the settlor is to pay the CTT himself (and this will be the case in a newly created trust as it will have no funds out of which to pay the tax) the value has to be grossed up for CTT.

If they have not already been claimed, the £1,000 and £100 exemptions will be available. And, of course, the first £15,000 of "chargeable transfers" (that is, those gifts not exempt) are taxable at a nil rate.

In view of the fact that transfers between husband and wife are fully exempt it follows that the gift to a trust by one spouse for the benefit of the other is also exempt. In the rarer case of the benefiting spouse not

being domiciled in the United Kingdom the exemption is limited to £15,000.

The capital transfer tax consequences for a trust do not end at that point. There will be future charges and the extent of them will depend on whether the trust is an interest in possession or discretionary, as we shall see next week.

Before closing the subject for this week, a reminder that whenever a gift is made there is always the threat of capital gains tax hanging over the donor's head, as well as CTT. This applies whether the gift is made outright or to a trust.

If the assets transferred to the trust are not exempt from capital gains tax there will be another bill to pay and there is no relief for this double taxation.

I am afraid I left readers with the wrong impression last week on the subject of gifts between husbands and wives. In fact, gifts inter vivos between spouses before March 27, 1974, are, provided the donor survived to November 12, 1974, completely outside the capital transfer net. In other words, don't worry—the old estate duty regulations no longer apply and the gifts are not subject to capital transfer tax.

Vera Di Palma

Round-up

By popular demand • Oceanic 'buys' the index

Returning—by popular demand—are tax reserve certificates. From Monday onwards taxpayers, both private and corporate, will once more be able to plan for their future tax commitments through the purchase of what are now to be known as certificates of tax deposit.

Personal tax reserve certificates were phased out by the Government in June, 1973, although it took longer to unwind the arrangements for corporate taxpayers. Since then the Treasury has been subjected to a "bring back our tax reserve certificates" campaign. It has gracefully acceded to the pressure.

Interest of 10 per cent a year is provided on the certificates, payable either by direct debit or by cash. If they are withdrawn for cash, then the interest rate drops to 6 per cent. The interest, which accumulates, is paid in cash when the certificates are used or cashed in, but is subject to tax, including the investment income surcharge.

The minimum "investment" is £2,000 with additional deposits payable in £500 increments. The certificates are valid in respect of bearing interest for six years. They can be used against any

form of tax you care to name, but not VAT, of course, which is levied by the Customs and Excise, not the Inland Revenue.

With a 10 per cent coupon the certificates are broadly competitive with bank deposits, building society shares and short-dated gilts—provided they are used to meet future tax liabilities. So only buy them if you are sure that you will have big enough future tax bills to mop them up; and do not forget to use them in the allowed time span—people frequently did forget in the old days.

Incidentally, on the subject of VAT, the Customs and Excise has just issued the new general guide to VAT (Notice 700). It not only details the new higher rate but explains more fully, in the light of some of the more tricky points of the tax, the booklet is being sent to all VAT registered traders.

Success brings its own potential problems and this is exactly what has happened to Scottish Amicable with its Flexidowment policy. So much

so that the company is now about to close the first series and issue an entirely new contract, the Flexidowment second series.

The essence of the Flexidowment policy is that after 10 years the policy can, at any time, be cashed in, full or in part, for a guaranteed sum, thereby doing away with the old thorny problem of surrender values.

However, when one starts giving guaranteed returns then the question of "matching" assets starts to come to the fore. After having taken in £2.8m of funds with the first series, general manager Bill Proudfoot reckoned that the scheme was growing at such a rate that it could, in the long term, lead to a conflict of interest with the office's other policyholders.

The second series will be run as a separate fund within the main life fund and a slightly different bonus rate is envisaged. New bonuses will be at the rate of 3.25 per cent, compared with 3.8 per cent on the first series. But the bonus declared on existing bonuses will be 6 per cent rather than 4.8 per cent under the old series.

Also, the guaranteed sum



Scottish Amicable general manager Bill Proudfoot.

will be £10 for each year's premiums paid (based on £1 units a month) compared with £9.75. In other words, the new series lays greater emphasis on the longer-term benefits than the former, as well as giving higher guaranteed benefits after 10 years. An optional increase has also been built into the policy and at specified intervals the policyholder may increase his holding by one-third, irrespective of the state of his health at the later date.

"Buying the index" is a commonly heard view, particularly when the FT Actuaries All-Share Index, comprising some 650 shares, happens to be doing rather better than many unit trusts or investment trusts.

This thought has been the father to action as far as Lamont Holdings, the new parent of the Oceanic unit trust group, is concerned. For the Oceanic Progress Fund, which largely invested in new issues and smaller companies, has had its investment

policy changed—and its name. It is to be known as the Oceanic Index unit trust. Now, it is actually impossible to buy the FT Actuaries All-Share Index, but Hugh O'Neill, the managing director, has devised a system of investing which weights the constituent parts of the index and which, over the last six months, produced results roughly in line—give or take 2 per cent—with the performance of the index.

The portfolio has already been adjusted and the £600,000 fund now has between 80 and 100 holdings, chosen according to this philosophy.

AMEV Life, the subsidiary of the Dutch insurance giant, has introduced a new savings plan, the Triad Investment Plan. Basically, it is a unit-linked policy with the unique arrangement that five years before the plan matures a fixed proportion of the managed fund units—initially 10 per cent—will be transferred to the cash deposit fund which will not be subject to market fluctuations.

Another Scottish office, the Scottish Equitable Life, has just launched an escalating family income benefit. The policy offers an increasing benefit in return for increasing premiums, which in the initial years—when one is most short of cash if bringing up a family—amount to some 40 per cent below a level premium contract. The premiums and benefits thereafter increase at the rate of 5 per cent a year compound.

The offers this week are from Gartmore Fund Managers recommending the Gartmore British and Gartmore High Income funds; M & G recommending its Trust Assurance Plan; and Barclays Unicorn recommending its Share Exchange scheme.

Pensions

Matching state and private benefits

What will happen to your firm's pension scheme when the new state scheme starts in 1978? Every scheme will come under close scrutiny, and the result will vary widely from scheme to scheme.

For those employers who decide not to contract out—that is, decide not to take over responsibility for the pension of the new state pension, but to provide benefits on top—there will be a problem in fitting the two elements together.

In my last article I mentioned that many schemes at present ignore the state scheme benefits and provide their own pension of a half or two-thirds on top. The effect is not unreasonable for a group of well-paid employees: the predominantly flat-rate structure of the state pension favours the less well paid, a feature most employers would find acceptable.

Already, though, lower paid workers cannot be treated on the same basis without producing some ill results. A single person earning £36 a week would be better off in retirement than while he was working if his occupational pension was two-thirds of his pay without adjustment for the state pension.

This is ignoring the graduated pension, which started to look less insignificant in the last year or two before this scheme stopped. And the state pension and the increase for a married couple and already someone earning more than £2,500 a year might be better off in retirement.

Under the new scheme there will be a 25 per cent earnings-related pension on earnings up to about 11 times the national average. If you qualify for a two-thirds pension on top you have more than 90 per cent of earnings up to something like £5,000 a year in terms of up-to-date earnings figures. The flat rate element will remain, as well, and would take a person on the £5,000 a year mark above the level of his earnings.

Integration—matching up occupational scheme benefits with state scheme benefits to give a reasonably overall answer—becomes essential in some form or other when this level is reached. Unfortunately, any sort of precise adjustment for the state benefit will be complicated and expensive to operate. A complete offset is not even possible, because of the "best 20 years" provision in the state scheme.

This will in the long run allow a pensioner to have his pension worked out on those 20 years out of his whole working lifetime which give the best answer. The system works irre-

spective of changes in employment.

An employee might, therefore, work for quite a long period for a particular company, and then move to another for more pay. If he puts in 20 years at the higher paid job all his state pension will be worked out on the earnings of those 20 years, although his contributions to the earlier employment (and his employer's) will go towards earning his entitlement to a state scheme pension, as distinct from the rate of pension.

It is a device which makes very good sense from many points of view, but which raises questions of principle for an occupational scheme seeking to integrate with the state scheme. Fortunately (or unfortunately), it does not mean that an employer feels disposed to look at the cost to himself (which depends on earnings in his employment) or at the ultimate income of the employee (which may depend on earnings in other employment)—the simple fact is that there is no way in which an occupational scheme can allow for this feature.

Integration is a question, therefore, of fitting in with the state pension as it would be if it were based on the earnings during the employment in question.

Even at this, the problem is a complicated one. In the first place, there are three different slices of earnings which require different treatment. The first 20 per cent or so of national average earnings is covered by the flat rate benefit, giving a 100 per cent pension on this element. The next slice, up to 11 times, earns a 25 per cent pension. The excess over 11 times national average earnings earns no pension.

To fit in with this pattern would need a three-tier structure. With a provision for varying the limits in line with changes in earnings levels—for example, up to about a third of national average earnings might be disregarded completely; the next slice up to which a half times might earn a 40 per cent pension, and the balance a two-thirds pension. People with less than a full working lifetime with the company would get proportionately less.

There is a further complication here, in that the state benefit for people working in 1978 will not be proportionate to the length of their service: any one with under 20 years to go to retirement will earn 11 per cent each year (one-twentieth of 25 per cent) while anyone with more than 20 years to go will earn a 25 per cent pension, however long his future working lifetime.

This would be complicated enough, and would make it diffi-

cult for most people to discover exactly what their pension rights were under their occupational pension scheme. But it still does not give the right answer. The state scheme will be based on earnings throughout life, adjusted for changes in money values. Occupational schemes are usually based on final salary. The two will not normally correspond.

If the scheme wants to take state benefits into account more precisely, it is necessary to define the overall level of benefits and deduct the state pension. This solves the employee's problems of trying to decide how much he is going to have to live on in total, but makes it very hard for him to see how much his employer is providing.

This is a problem in several circumstances. If an employee is thinking of changing his job and where pay and conditions are under discussion, for example, the scheme authorities in running the scheme—if they find it difficult to decide how much benefit they are providing they cannot organize the finances of the scheme properly. And if the work of keeping records becomes too expensive and time-consuming the employer may feel that it is not worth while providing pension benefits at all.

At best, money which could be spent on benefits for members will have to be diverted to pay for the administration of the scheme. It is hoped that the Department of Social Security will make available to pension schemes their records of earnings and pension entitlements, but it is not clear whether this service will be available to schemes which are not contracted out.

At best, the information may be more than a year out of date, because it is based on employers' tax returns, which are submitted only annually. There may be some help in administrative problems here, but nothing approaching a solution.

You may think it all sounds too complicated for words. The managers of your pension scheme, and your employer, may think so too. They may react in one of three ways—by contracting out, by ignoring the state scheme and providing smaller benefits on top, or by giving up the unequal struggle and discontinuing the scheme entirely.

As we shall see in future articles in this series, they can, but not by exchanging one set of problems for another, but no more.

Eric Brunel

BARCLAYS UNICORN makes Share Exchange make sense

With increased volatility in share prices and the chance of even large companies passing their dividends, the management of a private portfolio becomes more worrying.

A unit trust investment enables you to retain a holding in equities while minimising the risks and worries. Extra protection is offered by the spread of its portfolio and by day-to-day professional management.

It makes sense to choose a unit trust from a big and well-established group. Barclays Unicorn is one of the largest, managing over £240m of funds and a range of 14 unit trusts to suit almost every investor's requirements.

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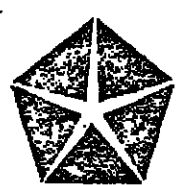
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INTERIM STATEMENTS



CHRYSLER

UNITED KINGDOM LIMITED

and Subsidiaries

Unaudited Consolidated Statement of Net Earnings
(in £000's)

Six months ended	30th June 1975	30th June 1974
Sales	19,083	165,695
Operating Loss — 1974 profit — before interest and taxation	(11,483)	2,127
Interest paid, less interest received	(3,814)	(2,058)
Non-operating profit (loss)	(607)	6
Loss — 1974 profit — including minority interest before taxation	(15,904)	75
Taxation	5	(13)
Minority interests in net earnings of a subsidiary	44	16
Net loss—1974 profit	(15,953)	72

The first six months ended 30th June 1975 were extremely difficult for the Company, resulting in a net loss of £15,953,000. Inflation continued to have a serious impact on the economy causing a severely depressed and highly competitive market for the Company's products. Two major disputes also adversely affected results.

Sales of the Company's cars and commercial vehicles in home and export markets during the period under review totalled 166,822 units compared with 180,842 units in the first half of 1974.

The built-up domestic and export truck and other commercial vehicle sales decreased during the period to 12,208 as compared with 15,664 during the same period last year.

The built-up domestic car and export vehicle sales totalled 75,523 units compared with 117,655 units, a reduction of 35.8 per cent.

All exports, particularly KD shipments, continued at a high level and totalled £50 million in value as compared with £50 million for the same period in 1974.

The Company continues to receive the support of its parent, Chrysler Corporation, who have provided finance for normal operation during the same period.

In May of this year the Company announced an Employee Participation Programme. It is hoped the implementation of the programme will be complete by December 1975. The employees' greater involvement in, and understanding of, the Company's problems is designed to improve industrial relations and the operations of the Company.

The Company will introduce by the year end the new Chrysler Alpine produced by Chrysler France. This is a modern transverse engine passenger car, already well received by the Press and the Dealers at its initial introduction.

General market conditions for automobiles and commercial vehicles remain unfavourable. Fleet purchases are particularly depressed by the generally difficult business conditions. While we expect a favourable response from the recently announced extended vehicle warranty, second half results are expected to be unprofitable.

S. Pearson & Son, Ltd.

Unaudited results of the Group for the half-year to 30th June, 1975

DIVIDEND
The directors have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary share capital of 1.4p per share, together with the tax credit of 0.75385p to which United Kingdom shareholders are entitled, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 2.15385p compared with 2.08955p last year. This dividend will be paid on 8th December, 1975, to shareholders on the register of members on 10th November, 1975.

RESULTS
Turnover, excluding that of Lazard Brothers & Co., Ltd. and investment and property income

	1975	1974
Turnover, excluding that of Lazard Brothers & Co., Ltd. and investment and property income	104,972	88,977

Profit of the group before taxation	10,025	8,532
Deduct: proportion attributable to minority interests and pre-acquisition profit	2,291	2,721

Profit before taxation attributable to S. Pearson & Son, Ltd.	7,734	5,811
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Total taxation (including overseas taxes £98,000—1974 £93,000)	5,465	4,303
Deduct: proportion attributable to minority interests and pre-acquisition profit	1,181	1,434

Net profit attributable to S. Pearson & Son, Ltd.	3,450	2,942
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Dividends:		
Preference	1.4	9
Ordinary interim	0.75385	0.68955
Tax credit	2.15385	2.08955

Profit retained	2,487	1,986
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Earnings per ordinary share	5.05p	4.34p
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Taxation for 1975 and 1974 includes United Kingdom corporation tax at the assumed rate of 52 per cent.

Extraordinary items not shown above are estimated to produce a surplus of £2,237,000 in the half year to 30th June, 1975, compared with £7,477,000 in the first half of 1974 and £8,725,000 in the whole of 1974. The 1975 surplus mainly arises from exchange differences and those for 1974 mainly from sales of properties.

FINANCE & INDUSTRIAL TRUST
Chairman says in annual statement that directors optimistic that steady growth of company which has continued since 1966 will be maintained.

KAKUZI TAX
Controller of Inland Revenue to instruct Collector of Stamp Duty not to insist on charging capital gains tax when the sale of Kakuzi shares in Kenya are submitted for stamping.

UNILEVER PURCHASE
Warburgs on October 2 bought on behalf of associates 12,000 Unilever ordinary shares at 39p and 5,000 at 38p.

STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS
Delay in issuing annual accounts has been caused by late completion of accounts of one subsidiary. Hoped to issue accounts before December 5.

LONGTON TRANSPORT
Chairman, Mr. E. Dole, told annual meeting that first quarter, although profitable, was "disappointing compared with same quarter of previous year."

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Surprise jump in lending rate cuts back early gains

After several dull days, the London stock market sparked into spectacular, if rather insubstantial life yesterday to end the account. Prices fluctuated wildly but, by the end, most of the leaders were back on the firm side of their starting levels. The initial impetus was provided by an unsubstantiated rumour that Saudi Arabia had agreed to lease OPEC and by midday the FT index had put on 6.2, with the added assistance of some end-account closing.

Buying for the new account boosted British Home Stores 4p to 344p. Interim profits, due on October 15, are expected. The share rose from £3.3m to £7.25m before tax as the group improves its share of the market.

It came as a mild surprise when the Minimum Lending Rate was raised by a full point and though prices were marked down, the firm, general tone was not lost. Dealers were further encouraged by a report that Britain may approach the IMF for a loan (and the economic stringencies which such a loan would carry with it) and a limited amount of buying for the next account.

At the end of the day, the index stood at 329.7, a gain of

1.1 on the day, but a decline of 1.1 over the two-week account. Gilts had a busy and eventful day, with the increase in Minimum Lending Rate from 11 to 12 per cent taking dealers by surprise.

In the morning, it had been generally assumed that no increase would be thought necessary and, as it became clear that a change was in prospect, there was an abrupt turn-around in the market.

Most of the damage was inflicted at the shorter end. The government's lower lowered the price of the short-dated "tap" stock, Treasury 9 per cent 1978, by 13 points from overnight levels and the rest of the market moved downwards in step. In the morning, however, prices had opened 1 point higher and held steady for some time. Dealers said that the market was very busy with much of the activity following the fall in prices after the M.L.R. rise.

"Longs" opened strongly better. At one stage they stood 1 point above overnight levels. But the M.L.R. news cancelled all of this rise and prices mostly closed unchanged. Dealers said that cheap buyers moved in during the morning and it creating an active two-way business.

The undoubted feature of the day was Felixstowe Dock where the state's 150p-a-share offer boosted the price 39p to 127p.

Other nationalization candidates firmed in sympathy, notably Manchester Ship Canal, 11p to 153p, and Swan Hunter, 3p to 71p.

The wild fluctuations among the leaders was best illustrated by the fact that closed 2p better at 380p, after touching 385p, and being as low as 375p at one point. ICI ended unchanged at 285p, after 287p, and after 287p, Beecham 3p to 310p, and Unilever managed to hold on to its overnight 390p.

On the electrical pitch, GEC were stimulated by the news of Government equipment cutbacks and staged an initial spurt of 7p to 124p, only to close at 115p. But Thorne "A", 202p and Racal, 179p, both weak shares in the last few days, managed to hold on to their gains and ended 4p and 8p ahead respectively. There was new-time interest in the latter. Advances of up to 10p in banks were clipped later by the fact that Barclays remained 3p better at 285p. Midland, though, lost 2p to 265p and National Westminster were at an unchanged 232p.

Still basking in the success of its brain scanner, EMI firmed a couple of pence to 206p.

Gold shares suffered from a lack of interest and losses of up to £1.50 were recorded. Here Am Gold was down by that

amount to £30 as was W Driefton, at £34. President Steyn lost 50p to £12. A more favourable tone on Wall Street helped with BP 10p better to 555p and Shell firming a point to 345p.

The week's two rights issue shares managed to advance. GEC coming back 10p to 350p and Grand Metropolitan adding another penny to 64p. Both insurances and properties were said to be "quietly firm", notably Regional "A", which, at 344p, ended 21p better. Another firm spot was Great Portland, up 3p to 212p.

Companies reporting included London Shop Property, up 1p to 45p. Williams Hudson, half a point off at 181p, and S. Pearson, where the shares closed 2p down to 132p after 130p. Chapman Consolidated shipped a penny to 24p, while Thomas Moore were at an unchanged 45p after a lower return. Macarthy's Pharmaceutical gained 5p to 75p on an earlier statement from the chairman. Incledon & Lambert traded at 38p after press talk of a bid from Diploma and favourable comment boosted Raybeck 4p to 57p.

Equity turnover on October 2 was £48,032m (12,965 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were Royal Insurance new, ICI, Shell, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, GKN, Distillers, Bowater, EM, Cus "A", Marks & Spencer, Barclays, Bank, British American Tobacco, Unilever, Felixstowe Dock, Matthew Hall and British Home Stores.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Benson, Clark (25p) Int	1.47	14.7	5/12	—	3.85
Broken Hill Prop (52) Int	14.5	14.5	26/11	—	30.5
J. E. England (5p) Int	0.3	0.26	2/5	—	1.98
Thos French (10p) Fin	1.44	1.30	13/11	2.09	1.95
Federated Chemicals (25p) Int	1.17	1.1	6/1	0.10	0.23
Wms Hodson (20p)	0.10	0.33	4/12	3.32	4.12
Ldn Shop (25p) Int	1.16	1.14	18/11	—	2.12
F. Miller (10p) Int	1	3.83	2/11	2	6.3
S. Lyles (20p) Int	0.67	0.67	1/12	—	3.63
Moore & Brook (20p) Int	0.87	0.87	6/11	0.87	0.87
Oceana Cons (25p) Fin	1.4	1.4	—	—	5.09
S. Pearson (25p) Int	2.72	0.93	16/1	—	2.03
Richardson Smith (10p) Int	1.05	1.05	—	—	1.04
Ward White Gp (25p) Int	4.26	4.26	21/11	4.26	4.0
Western Dounas Tea Fin	2.06	2.06	8/1	—	5.2
Western Brothers (25p) Int	2.06	2.06	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis to establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Cents a share, † Adjusted for scrip.

S. Pearson & Son 33pc ahead at half time

Excluding Lazard Brothers and investment and property income, the turnover of S. Pearson & Son, for the six months to June 30 jumped from £88.9m to £104.9m. Pre-tax profits of the company (banking and finance services, newspapers—publishing and other interests), jumped 33 per cent to £7.7m.

The dividend rose from 2.08p to 2.15p gross from net attributable profits of £3.4m, against £2.9m. Earnings a share are 5.05p, against 4.34p. Extraordinary items not included in the results are estimated to produce a surplus of £2.2m for the half year, against £7.4m last year, and £8.7m for the whole of 1974. The surplus this year arises mainly from exchange differences, and that for 1974, mainly from property sales.

Over the whole of last year, pre-tax profits declined from a record £25.7m to £20.4m.

The group's 64 per cent-controlled publishing subsidiary, Pearson Longman, last month announced a fall in pre-tax profits from £4.6m to £3.5m, on sales up from £42.5m to £49.7m.

Recovery under way at Beaton, Clark
After the fall in profits last year, Beaton, Clark (glass containers) started to recover in the first half of this year. Pre-tax profits reached £298,000, compared with £497,000 in the first half of 1974, and only £49,000 in the second half of that year.

In the first half of 1975, sales were £58.4m compared with £45.5m in the first half of 1974.

Richardson Smith
Without including the results of Halcrow Investments, acquired on April 27, the pre-tax profit for the half to June 30, £142,000. As at September 26, Richardson Smith rose from £69,000 to £91,000 in the half year to June 30. Turnover of this furnishing, fabric and clothing

group went up from £810,000 to £1m. The interim dividend duly rises from 1.4p gross to 4.13p. The timing and amount of future dividend payments depends upon the date of accounts for the merged group.

Federated Chemicals
The turnover of Federated Chemical Holdings more than quadrupled to £14.9m for the six months to June 30. But pre-tax profits fell from £525,000 to £358,000. The dividend is up from 1.64p to 1.9p.

The figures include the results of two companies acquired in July, 1974, and is after interest charges of £322,000, against £72,000.

Interest charges should be reduced in the second half and there are signs of a recovery in export business.

Warne Wright higher
Interim pre-tax profits of Warne, Wright & Rowland, drop forger, engineer and maker of fastenings, have grown from £389,000 to a record £477,000 in the six months to June 30. Turnover was £5.5m against £5.49m. The interim dividend rises from 1.38p to 1.5p.

The snag is that the board can only view the second half with caution.

Ferry Pickering
A hat trick of higher profits, a bigger dividend and a scrip issue of one share for every 10 shares held in the company from Ferry Pickering Group in printing and packaging, and a publisher of three trade journals. After a sharp first-half

jump profits before tax, including rents and interest, rose from £509,975 to a new peak of £624,225, while the net dividend rises from 2.2p to 2.5p, or to 3.86p gross, the most allowed. After tax, the group also had a surplus of £339,262 on a property sale. Excluding this, earnings a share were 8.07p against 6.76p. It is understood that things are still going well.

T. French does well in difficult year
The directors of Thomas French, the "Rufflette" curtain-styling people are gloomy. They say their company see any reliable prospect of better trading this year. Even so, the year to June 28 turned out better than seemed likely at one time.

Pre-tax profits slipped by 19 per cent to £719,114 but at half time shareholders were warned that it was hard to forecast a yearly profit of more than 60 per cent of the year before. First half profits divided by 40, per cent, but these had to bear the cost of the extension to Wyndham Road. The dividend rises by the most allowed, from 29.2 per cent gross to nearly 32.2 per cent.

Thomson-Brandt
Societe Thomson-Brandt, major French electrical and electronics concern, reports first-half pre-tax profits of £7.2m, against £6.5m, and the balance has been underwritten by de Zoete & Bevan.

The company holds 60,000 ordinary in Bandanga Holdings

(5.75 per cent) and is to acquire a further 113,000 for £52,000. Singlo will then hold 16.6 per cent of Bandanga. On future policy, no specific acquisition of a United Kingdom trading activity is in mind, but the board will concentrate on retaining and distribution concerns.

Scottish Northern Investment
Trust has completed arrangements for a reciprocal sterling/dollar loan, by which SNIT has borrowed about \$4.08m from a United States company for a 10-year period, and has lent £2m to the United Kingdom subsidiary of the American company.

The recent rights issue by Alberton Investments brought 89 per cent acceptance for 1.08m shares. Excess share applications have been received for a total of 238,000.

Single's 1-for-5 rights issue
Tea estates group Singlo Holdings is making a rights issue of some 806,000 10 per cent cum convertible preference shares of 50p each at par. This will be on the basis of one for every five ordinary. Each preference share will be convertible into five ordinary, 1979-80, inclusive.

Singlo directors and some major shareholders have undertaken to take up their rights, amounting to 342,000 shares (about 42.4 per cent) and the balance has been underwritten by de Zoete & Bevan.

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The recent rights issue by Alberton Investments brought 89 per cent acceptance for 1.08m shares. Excess share

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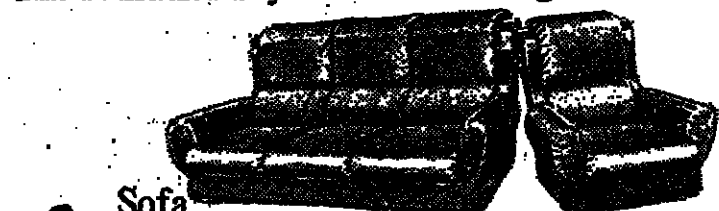
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SUPER PACK OF WOODSCREWS

BALANCED SELECTION OF ALL POPULAR SIZES & TYPES
10 GROSS
£3.95
HART OF KNIGHTS BRIDGE

HAND CARVED PINE MANTELS

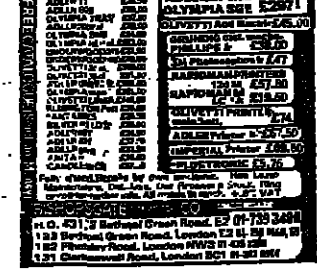
ADAM MANTELS
HART OF KNIGHTS BRIDGE

PREVENT Pet Damage



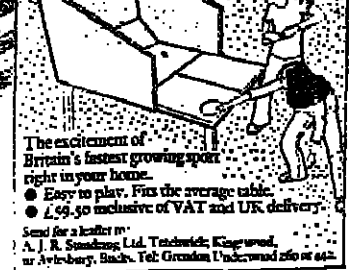
State indoors or outdoors.
prevent damage from your pet's claws, teeth, etc. from damage to your furniture, carpets, etc. Most effective yet - harmless spray. Most effective yet - harmless spray. Most effective yet - harmless spray. One can will last for many months.

DETER BURGLARS PREVENT ACCIDENTS



Key operated window lock with a dual purpose - childproof and burglar resistant. The most practical window lock ever invented. Fitted by anyone in minutes.
SPECIAL OFFER FOUR **£1.55** + 20p
8 for **£2.00** + 30p
Dept TM, 27 Blenheim Gate, London, SW2

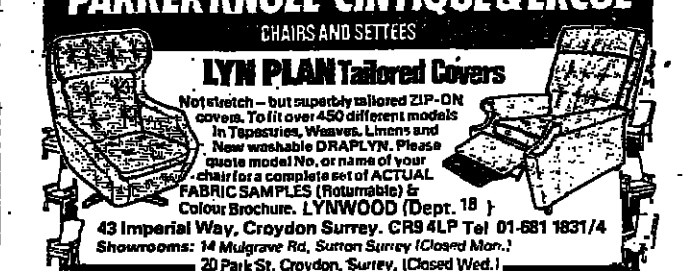
TABLE SQUASH



BACKGAMMON

SAVE OVER **£12**
LIQUIDATION OF IMPORTERS
NOW ONLY **£14.75** POST FREE
Super quality new, 18mm, K 18mm, folding, hinged, sturdy, aluminium, leather, exterior, gold, silver, etc. Examine this set in your own home. The most practical window lock ever invented. Fitted by anyone in minutes. **£14.75** POST FREE. EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS! GUY APOLLO PRODUCTS (740), 24 South Street, Farnham, Surrey.

EXCLUSIVE TO OWNERS OF PARKER KNOLL - CINTIQUE & ERCOL



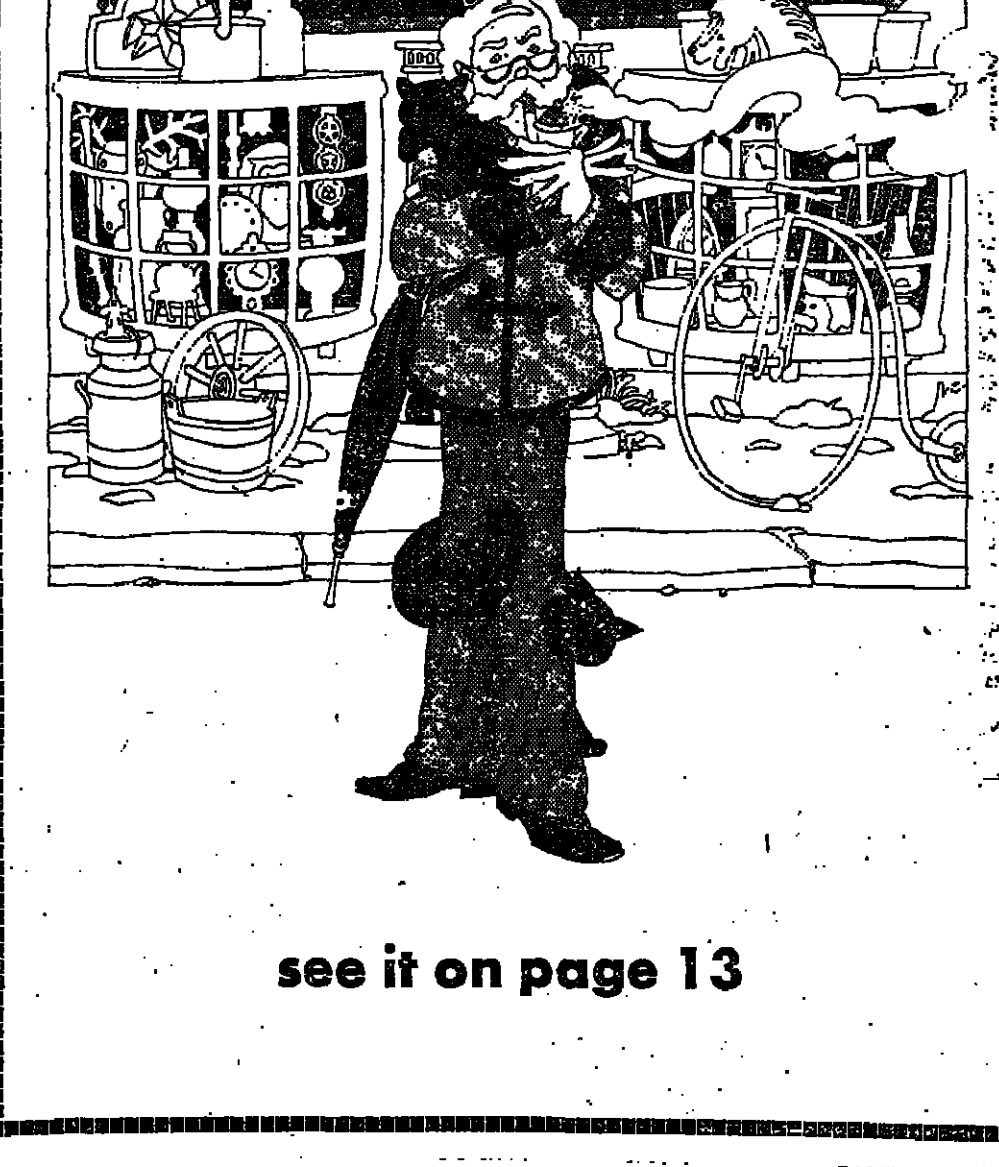
LYN PLANT Tailored Covers
Not stretch - but superbly tailored ZIP-ON covers. Tailor made to fit your furniture. In Tapestry, Velour, Linen and many other fabrics. New washable DRY-CLAY fabric. New model No. or name of your chair for a complete set of ACTUAL FABRIC SAMPLES (free) to Colour brochure. LYNWOOD (Dept. 18)
43 Imperial Way, Croydon Surrey. CR9 4LP Tel: 01-881 1831/4
Showrooms: 14 Mulgrave Rd., Sutton Surrey (Closed Mon.)
20 Park St., Croydon, Surrey (Closed Wed.)

GYM-BAR



Hanging is Good for you
Fit the GYM BAR into any door frame. Perfect for stretching, exercises or sunbathing. You need to exercise every muscle of your body in a few minutes. Stretch your muscles. A must for back, neck, chest, waist, hips, thighs and legs. Works wonders!
00000 £5.95
Dept TM, 27/28 Blenheim Gate, London, SW2
Shops: Albany, Rampton Rd., Ldn., SW12

The New Curiosity Shoppe



see it on page 13



To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel. 01-837 3311

Manchester office 061-834 1234

Advertisements in this section are accepted on the basis of space only. The advertiser is responsible for the content of the advertisement. The advertiser is responsible for the content of the advertisement.

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DEATHS

FAIRBANKS—On 2nd October at 10.15 a.m. after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Fairbanks, 69, of 10, The Grange, Weymouth, Dorset, died.

CHESON—On 2nd October at 10.15 a.m. after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Cheson, 69, of 10, The Grange, Weymouth, Dorset, died.

HARRAWAY—On 2nd October at 10.15 a.m. after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Harraway, 69, of 10, The Grange, Weymouth, Dorset, died.

HARRISON—On 2nd October at 10.15 a.m. after a long illness, Mrs. Mary Harrison, 69, of 10, The Grange, Weymouth, Dorset, died.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 23

ANNOUNCEMENTS
CAN YOU PROVIDE THE COUNTRY AND THE POSITION?
FOCUS ON OVERSEAS
APPOINTMENTS
ON 9TH OCTOBER 1975

THOMSON GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY IN SWITZERLAND
A HOLIDAY WITH A PURPOSE
7 to 15 day pilgrimage to the Alps with Inter-Church Travel.

THOMSON WINTERSPORTS
Prices subject to possible change
ATOL 152838

FARE IS FAIR ON SCHEDULE FLIGHTS
New York from £29.00 return
Bangkok from £29.00 return

ABANDONED
The Green Animal Shelter, 111, The Grange, Weymouth, Dorset, is looking for a home for a cat named 'Marmalade'.

SUPER SAVERS
NABOBI, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
SINGAPORE, TOKYO, SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

CANCER RESEARCH
The Cancer Research Fund is looking for volunteers for a study on the effects of diet on cancer.

TUNISIAN WINTER HOLIDAYS
Reserve your winter sun now with Tunisia Holidays
Prices from £29.00 return

TOP FLIGHT TRAVELS
Worldwide economy flights to New York, Los Angeles, London, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, New Zealand

SKING IN ITALY
Our new winter ski brochure is now available
Prices from £29.00 return

LOW COST TRAVEL WORLDWIDE
Australia, Far East, Middle East, India, Pakistan, and other various destinations.

GET SOAKED IN THE SUN
Creta, Rhodes, Corfu
Single flights to £100

AFRICA OVERLAND
Cross the Sahara from Cairo to Cape Town
Prices from £29.00 return

SAVE £20 + TO EUROPE
Tours to Paris, Rome, Athens, London
Prices from £29.00 return

RELIABLE ECONOMY FLIGHTS
To London, Paris, Rome, Athens, London
Prices from £29.00 return

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Cross the Sahara from Cairo to Cape Town
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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

MARBELLA
4-star de luxe hotel with swimming pool, tennis, and golf
Prices from £108 for 1 week

GOLF VILLA HOLIDAYS
10-11 Ballinacorney Lane, Wexford
Tel: 01-849 0000

FARAWAY PLACES
In SOUTH AFRICA
Follow the sun and take a holiday in South Africa

FLY: IT COSTS LESS FOR MORE
Mauritius, Seychelles, Zanzibar
Prices from £108 for 1 week

TRAVELAIR
In Australia, the New Zealand, and the Pacific
Single and return fares

TRAVELAIR
INTERNATIONAL LOW COST TRAVEL
40 Great Marlborough Street, London, W.1

POUND-SAVERS
Economy fares to India, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and other various destinations.

CORFU LOVERS
If you haven't time to fit in a holiday, why not visit Corfu
Prices from £29.00 return

LUXURY CANAL CRUISER
2 years old, 50ft, steel hull, narrow boat, sleeps 8

HOUSEBOAT (MOORED)
WANTED
By respectable family for long weekend/midweek/October, location irrelevant.

AUSTRALIA-N.Z.
Hong Kong or Bangkok or Sydney or Melbourne or Auckland or New Zealand or Australia

AFRICA OVERLAND
Cross the Sahara from Cairo to Cape Town
Prices from £29.00 return

SAVE £20 + TO EUROPE
Tours to Paris, Rome, Athens, London
Prices from £29.00 return

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FOR SALE AND WANTED

CARPETS
SPECIAL IMPORT
All wool pile carpets in many shades from £2.50 to £3.50

POSNER'S CARPET CENTRE
9 Westmoreland, W.2
Tel: 01-834 0374

JAMES OSBORNE BRONZES
STUDY OF ASIAN STALLION BRONZE
Signed, dated by James Osborne, limited edition of 50. Price £750 each.

CARPET CLEARANCE
Genuine Timbraw Cord—the great go-anywhere carpet
Heavy duty in 27 inch, 6, 9 and 12 ft widths. 3 colours. Special clearance price £1.99

RESISTA CARPETS LTD.
255 New King's Rd., S.W.6
188 Upper Richmond Rd. West, London, W.14

VALUABLE FURNITURE
Why pay heavily for second hand furniture when you can buy it at a fraction of the price

LUXURY BATHROOM SUITES
We offer a wide range of top brand bathroom suites in a variety of styles and finishes

WANTED
By Part (Harry) Part, owners of a 1964 Rover P5B, for sale or swap

DIAMOND RING (old, 5 perfect stones) will accept £200. 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

FRANK SINATRA (old, 5 perfect stones) will accept £200. 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

OFFICE EQUIPMENT—Desks, chairs, typewriters, etc. for sale or swap

DAILY TELEGRAPH MYSTERY BY A STUDENT OF THE London School of Journalism

CHARTERED SURVEYORS (old, 5 perfect stones) will accept £200. 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

SHIRAZI NURSING HOME—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

NEW ROLL-ROVE—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

MOTOR CARS—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

RENTALS—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

RENTALS—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

RENTALS—Old, 5 perfect stones, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat, 1.00 carat

WANTED TO RENT

Three-five years, good country, 4-6 bedrooms, furnished, 2-3 miles from London

ARE YOU A HUNTER? For a 1964 Rover P5B, for sale or swap

WANTED NOW, Central/Southern, 2-3 miles from London

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